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(54) **SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING THE SAME**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

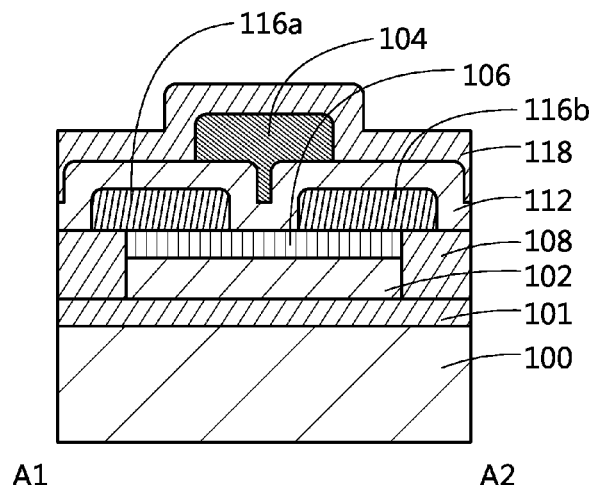
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A transistor with stable electric characteristics is provided. A transistor with small variation in electrical characteristics is provided. A miniaturized transistor is provided. A transistor having low off-state current is provided. A transistor having high on-state current is provided. A semiconductor device including the transistor is provided. One embodiment of the present invention is a semiconductor device including an island-shaped stack including a base insulating film and an oxide semiconductor film over the base insulating film; a protective insulating film facing a side surface of the stack and not facing a top surface of the stack; a first conductive film and a second conductive film which are provided over and in contact with the stack to be apart from each other; an insulating film over the stack, the first conductive film, and the second conductive film; and a third conductive film over the insulating film.

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FIG. 1A

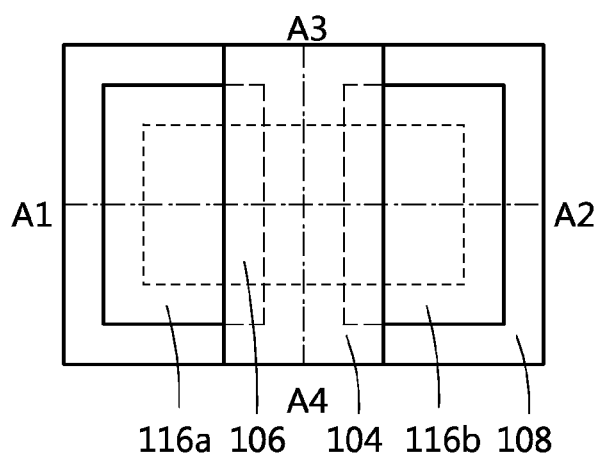


FIG. 1C

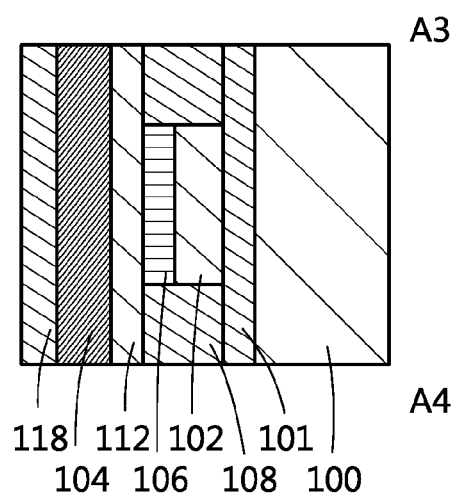


FIG. 1B

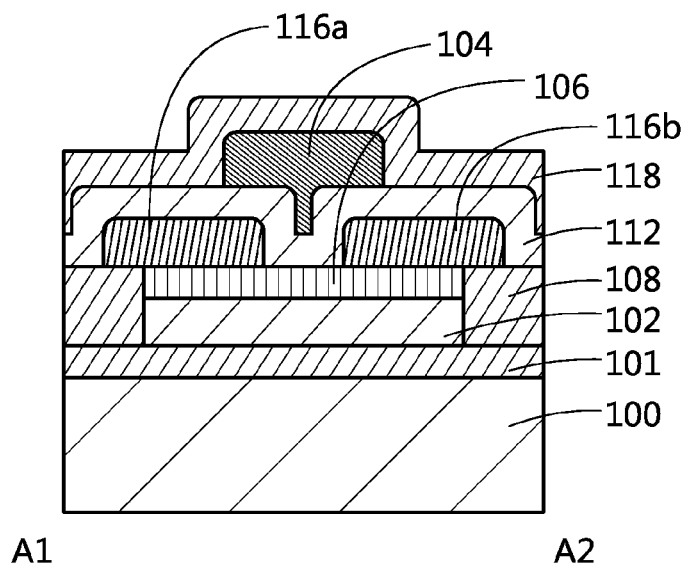


FIG. 2A

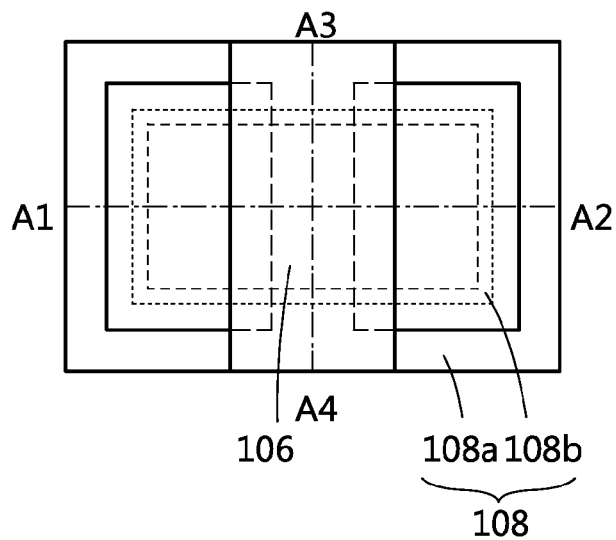


FIG. 2C

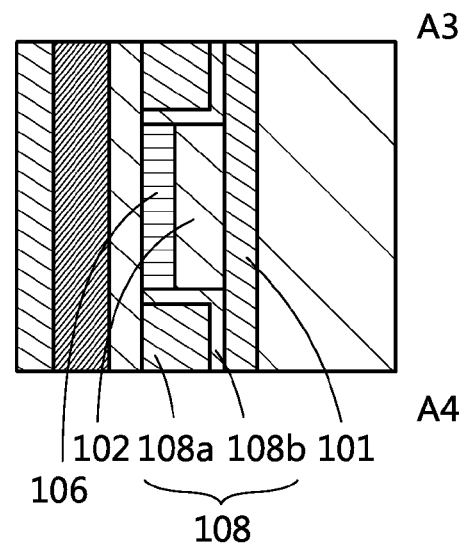


FIG. 2B

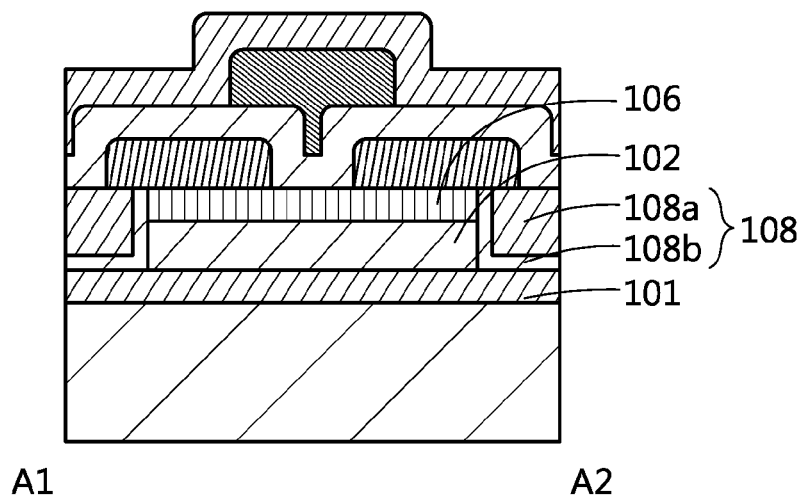


FIG. 3A1

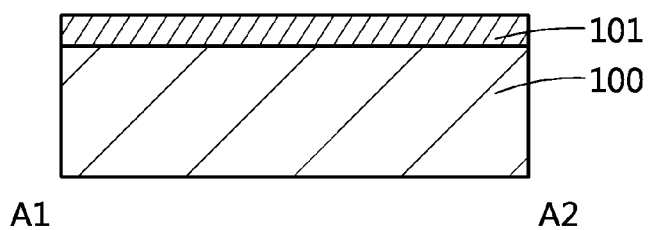


FIG. 3A2

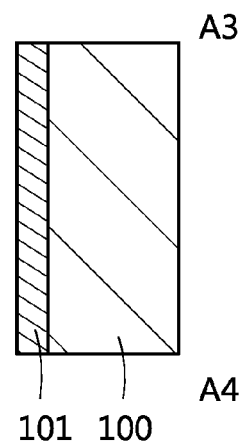


FIG. 3B1

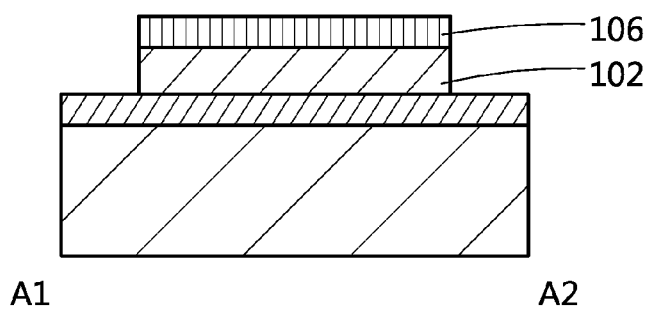


FIG. 3B2

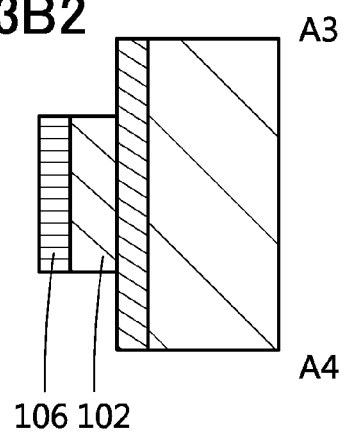


FIG. 3C1

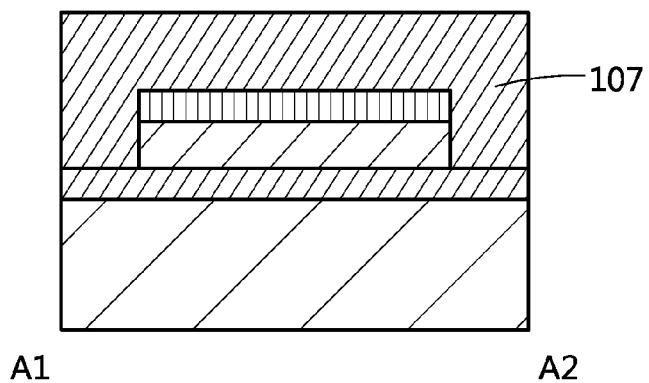


FIG. 3C2

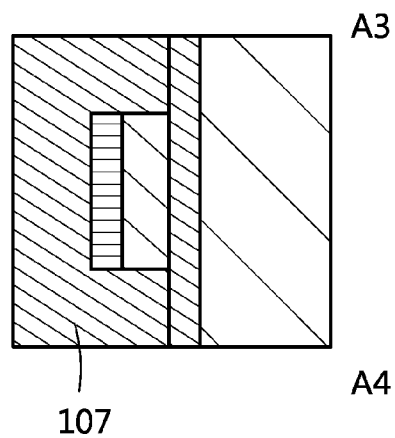


FIG. 4A1

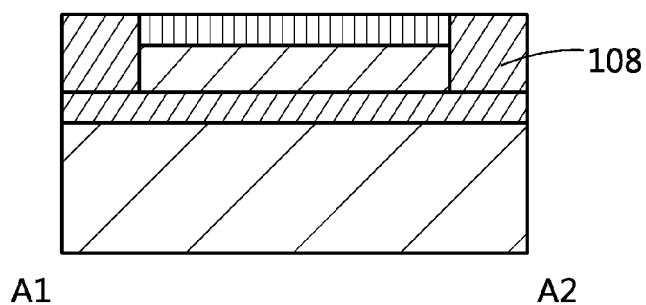


FIG. 4A2

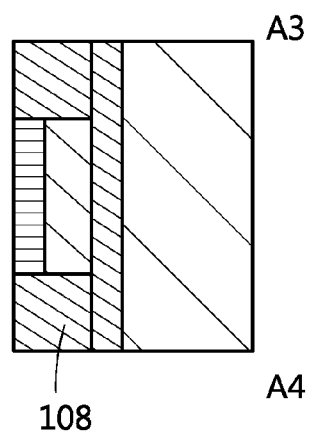


FIG. 4B1

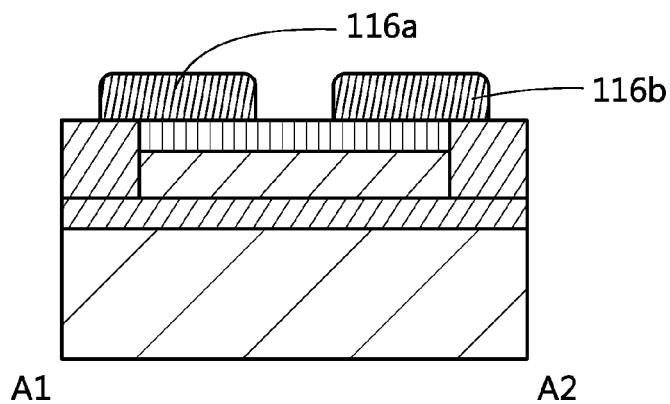


FIG. 4B2

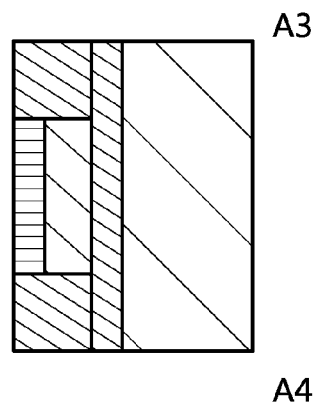


FIG. 4C1

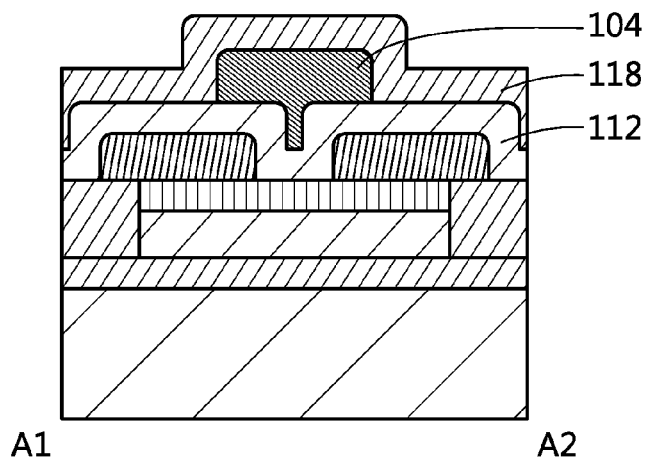


FIG. 4C2

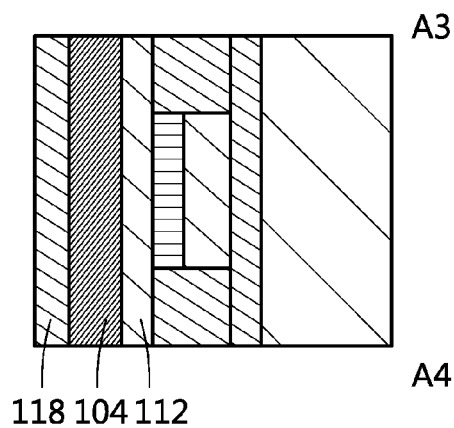


FIG. 5A

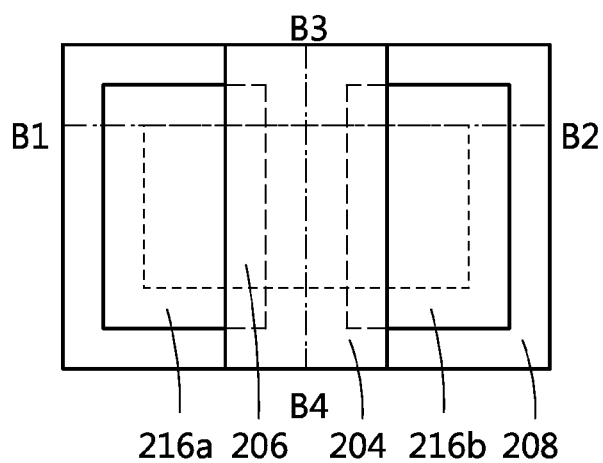


FIG. 5C

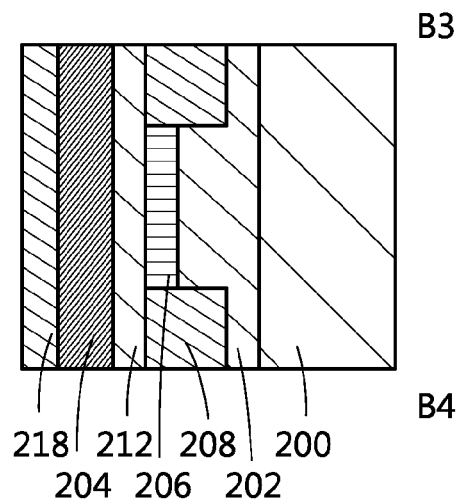


FIG. 5B

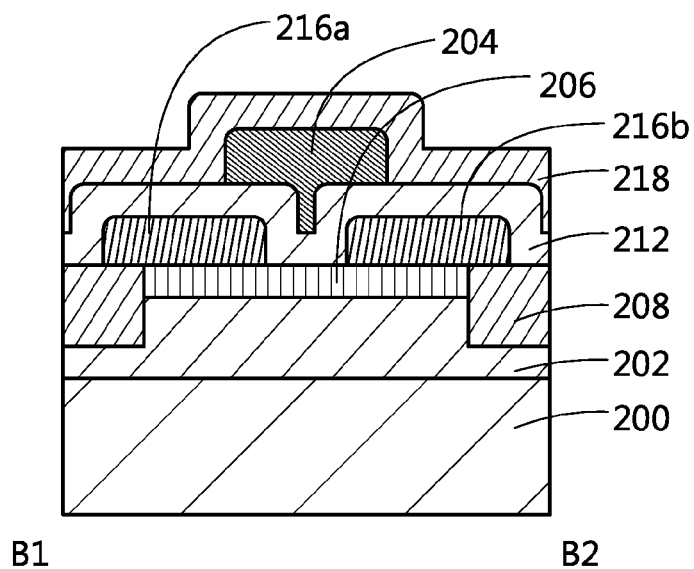


FIG. 6A1

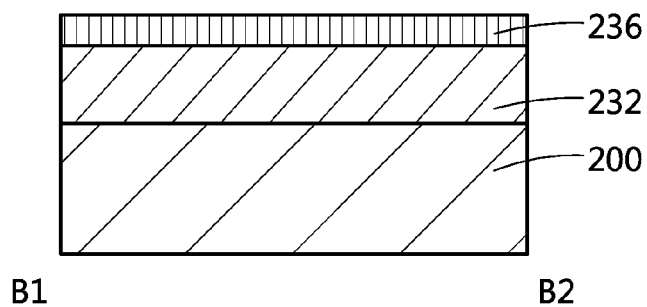


FIG. 6A2

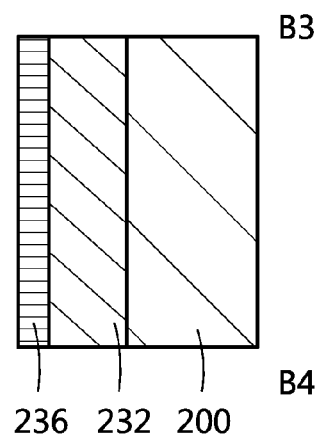


FIG. 6B1

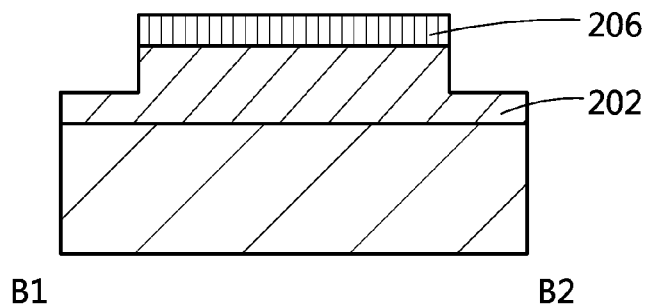


FIG. 6B2

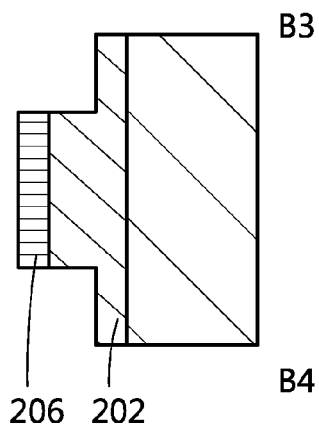


FIG. 6C1

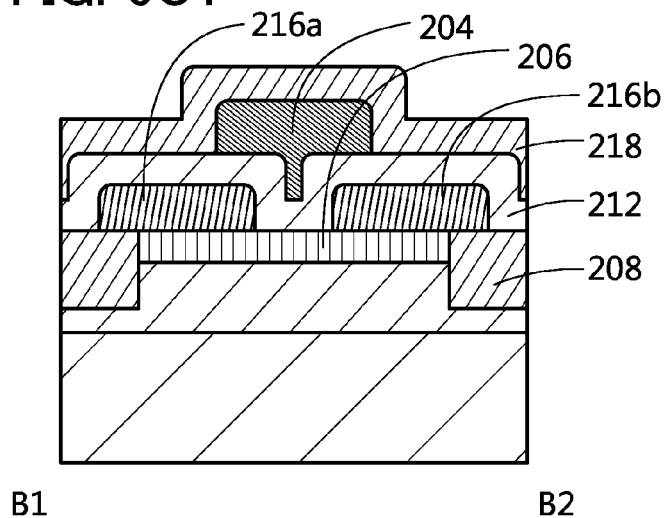


FIG. 6C2

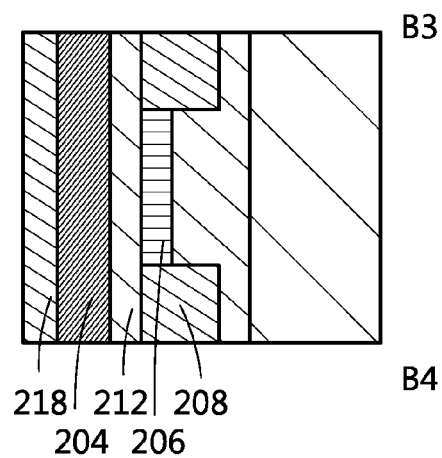


FIG. 7A

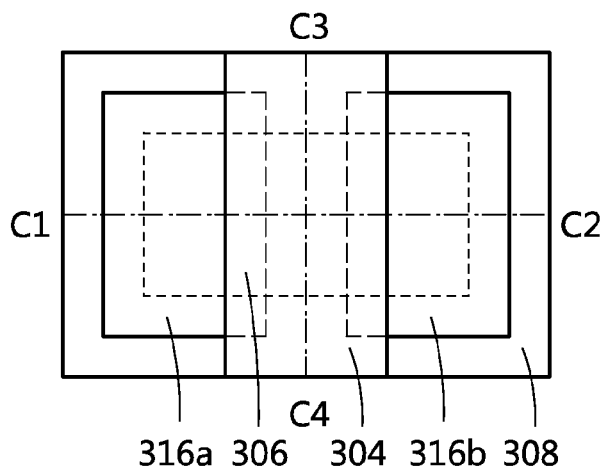


FIG. 7C

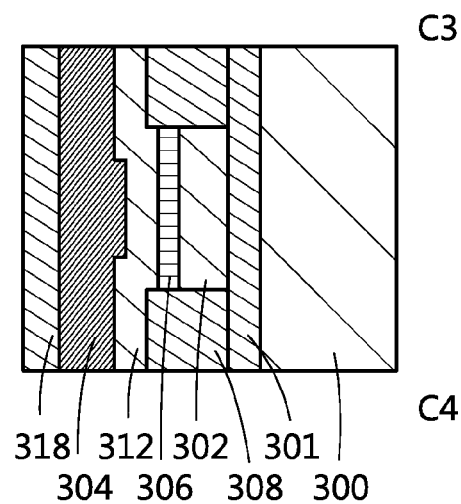


FIG. 7B

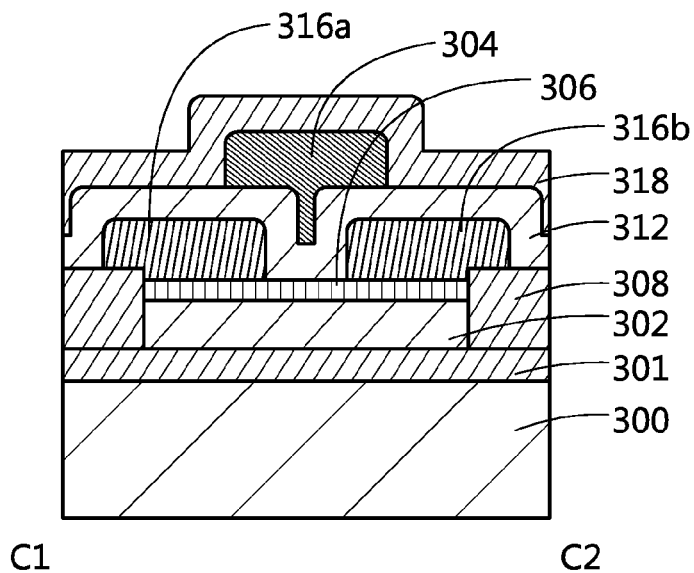


FIG. 8A1

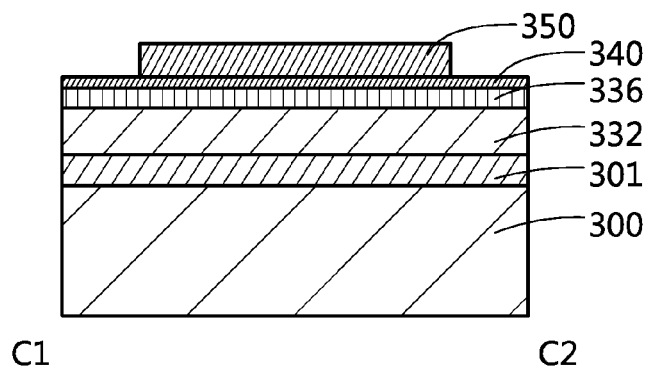


FIG. 8A2

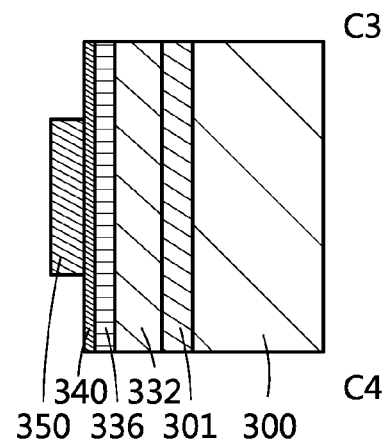


FIG. 8B1

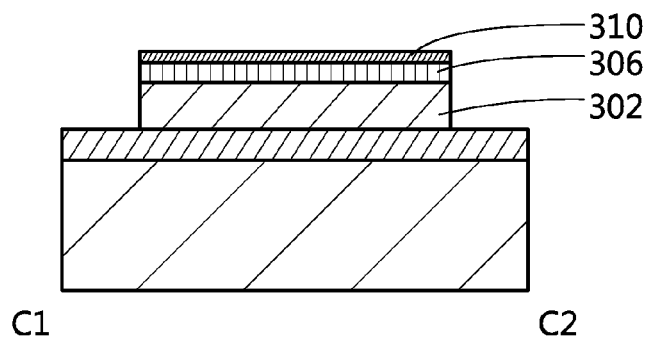


FIG. 8B2

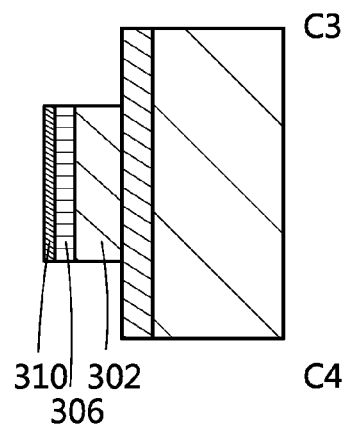


FIG. 8C1

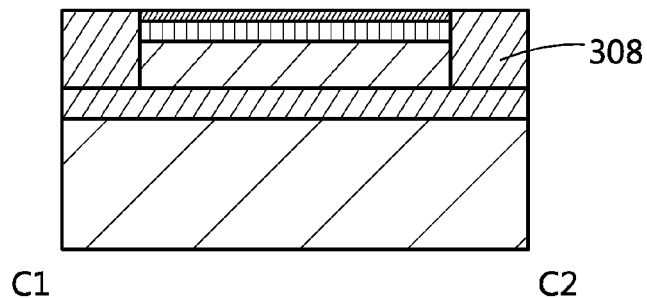


FIG. 8C2

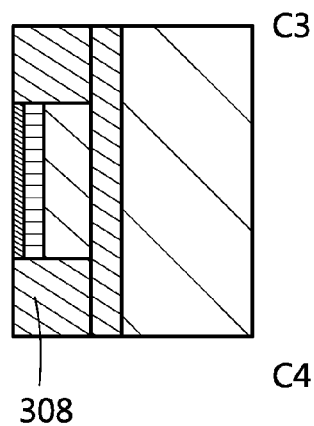


FIG. 9A1

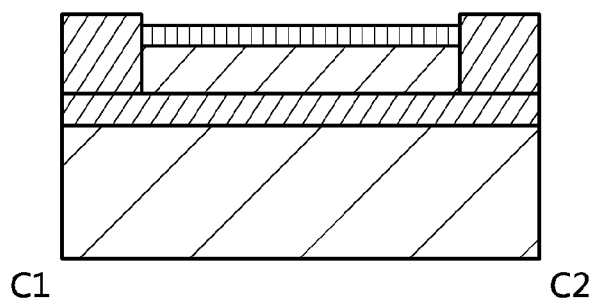


FIG. 9A2

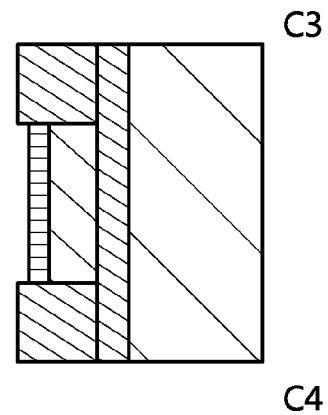


FIG. 9B1

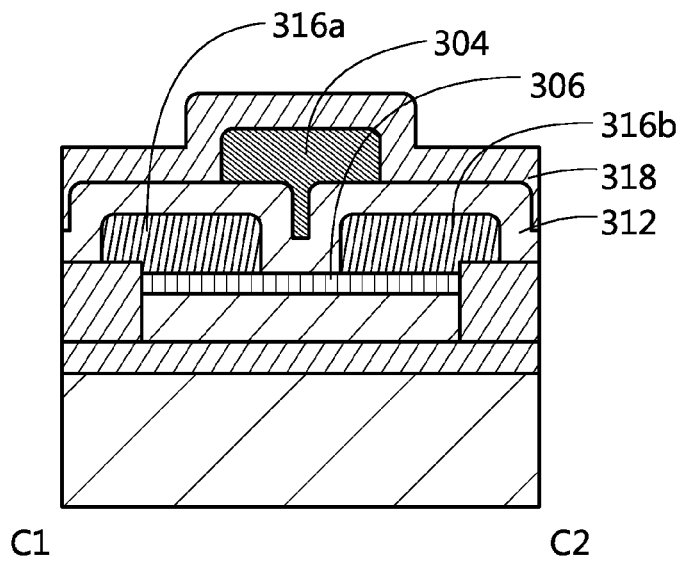


FIG. 9B2

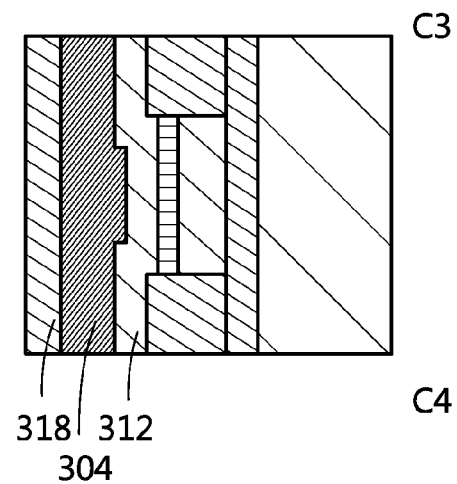


FIG. 10A

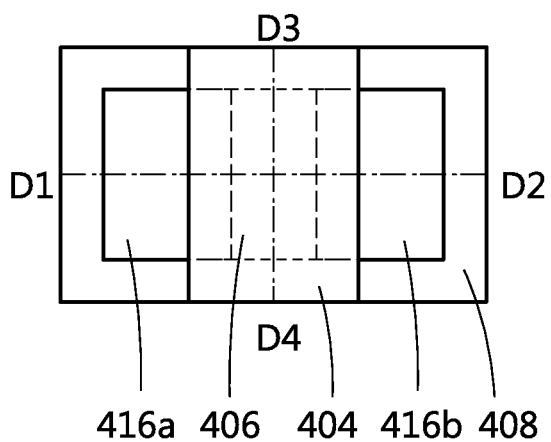


FIG. 10C

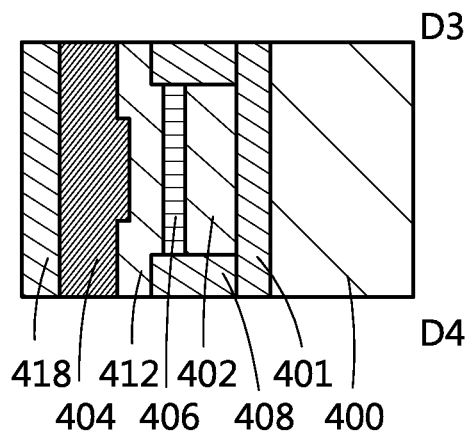


FIG. 10B

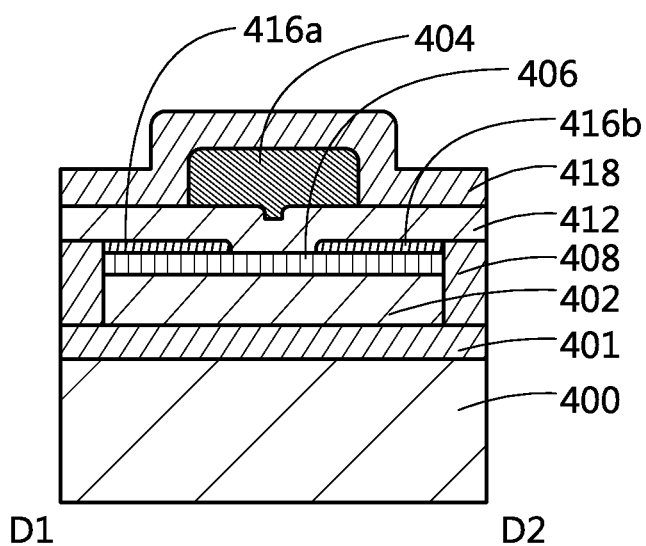


FIG. 11A

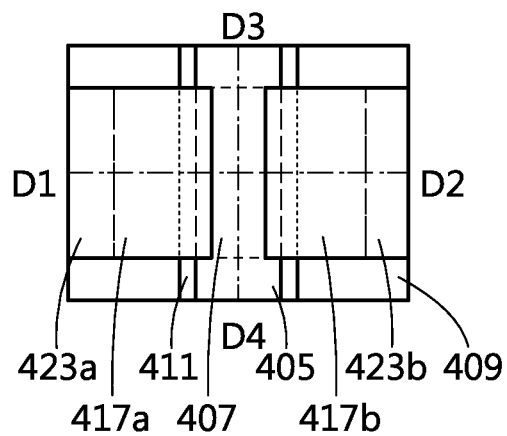


FIG. 11C

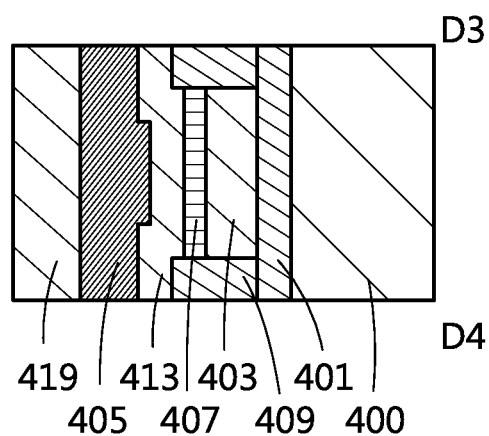


FIG. 11B

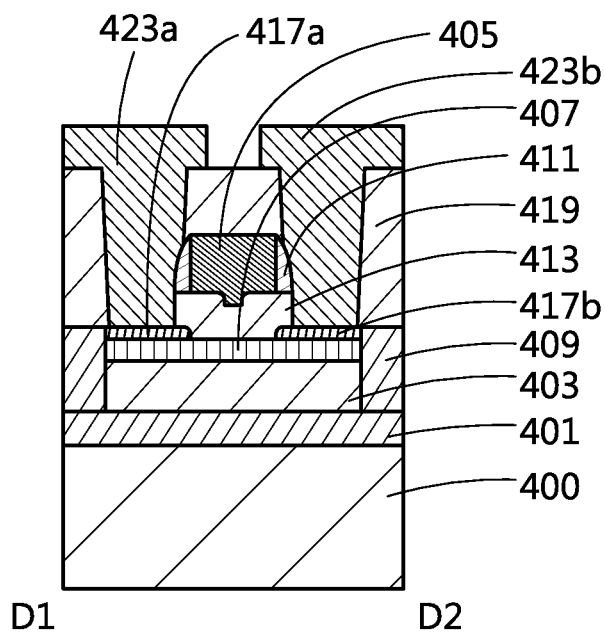


FIG. 12A1

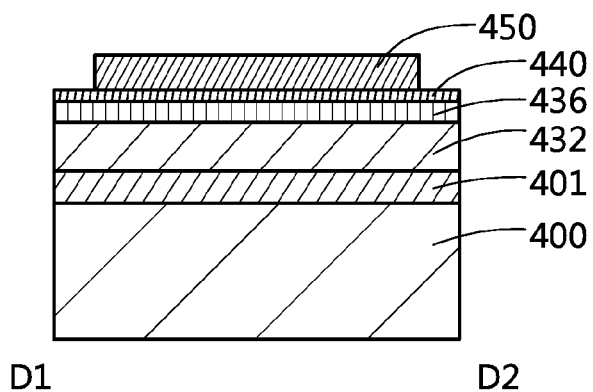


FIG. 12A2

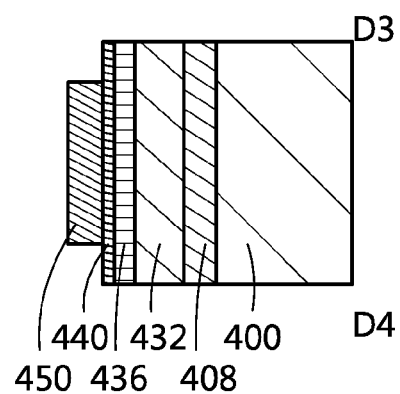


FIG. 12B1

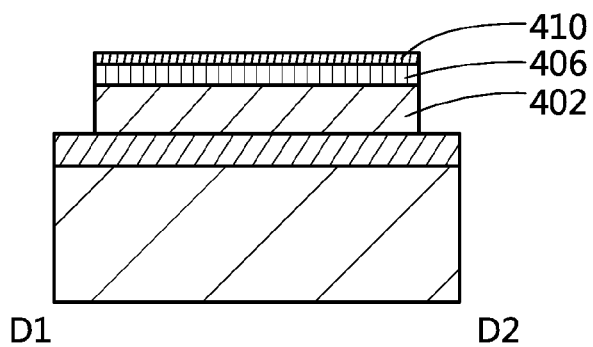


FIG. 12B2

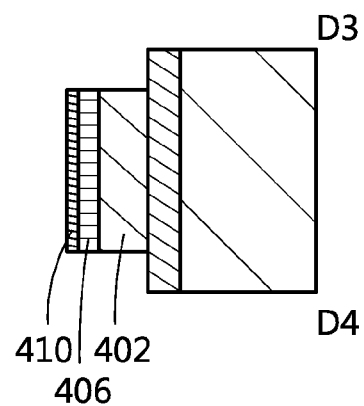


FIG. 12C1

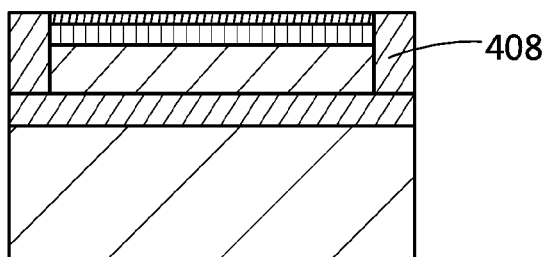


FIG. 12C2

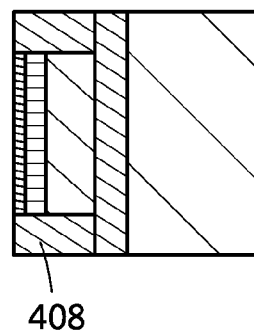


FIG. 13A1

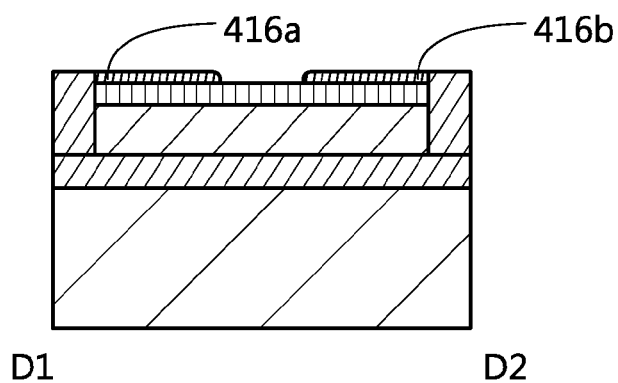


FIG. 13A2

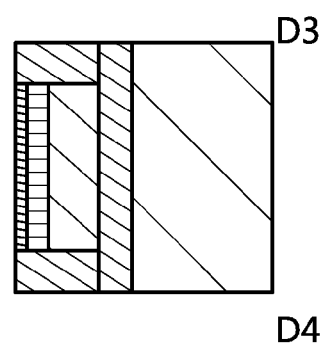


FIG. 13B1

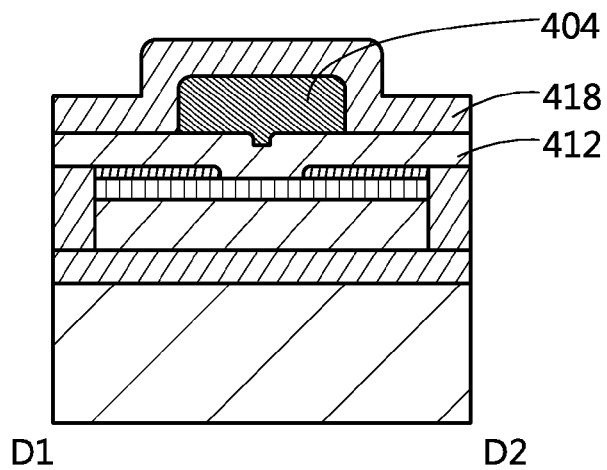


FIG. 13B2

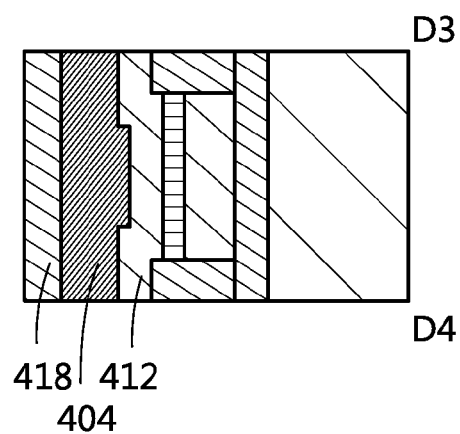


FIG. 14A

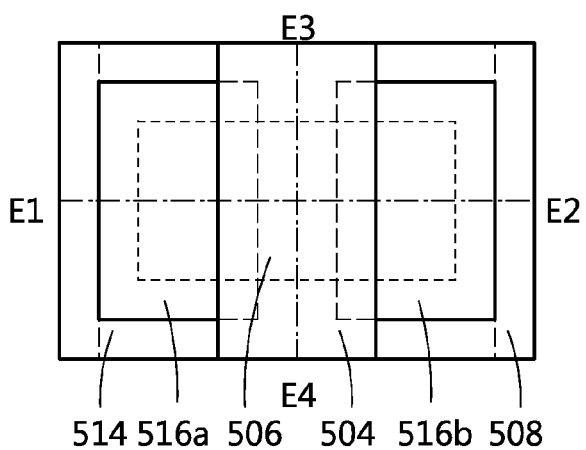


FIG. 14C

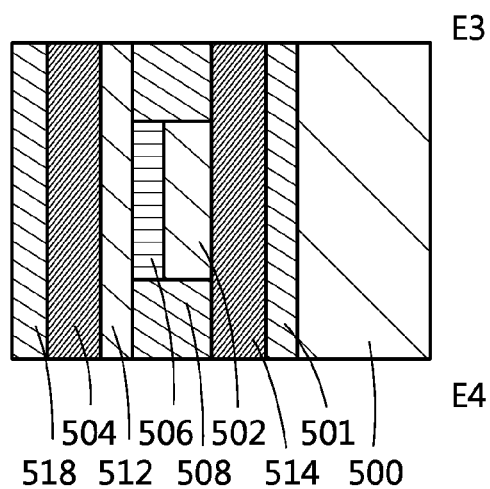


FIG. 14B

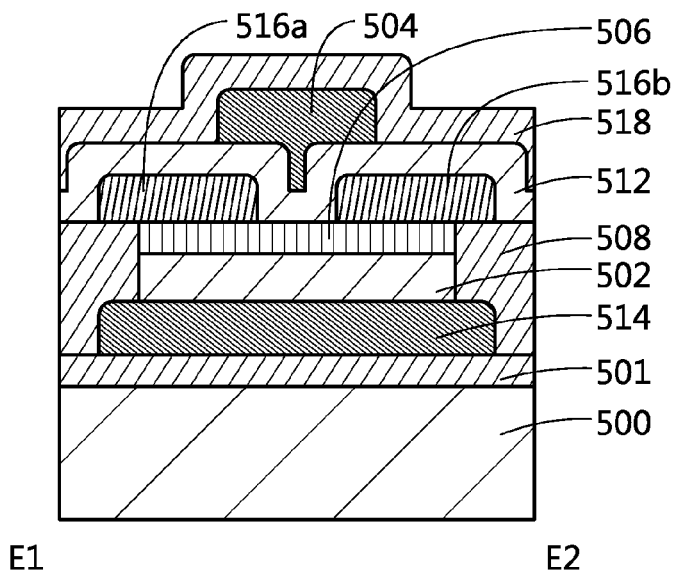


FIG. 15A

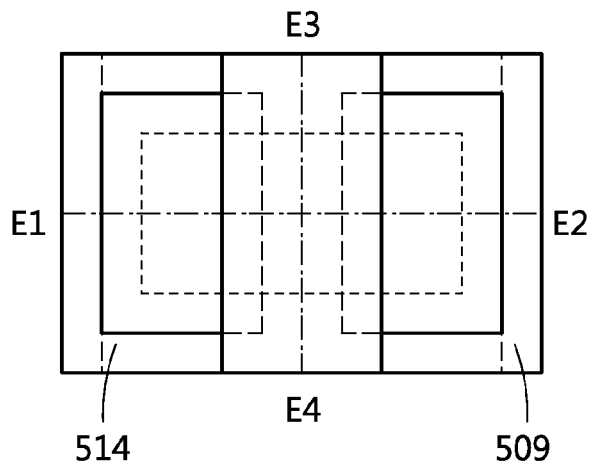


FIG. 15C

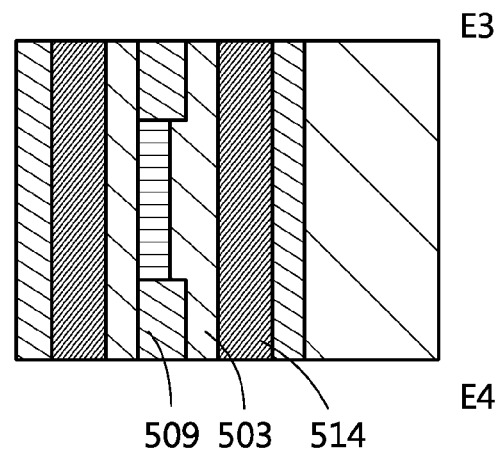


FIG. 15B

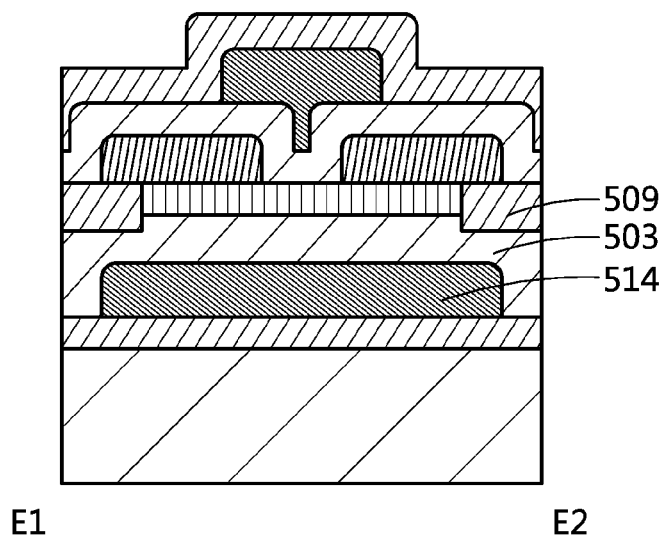


FIG. 16A1

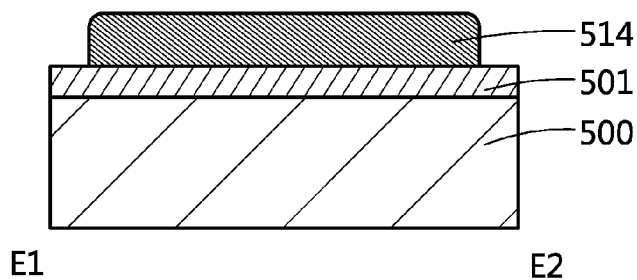


FIG. 16A2

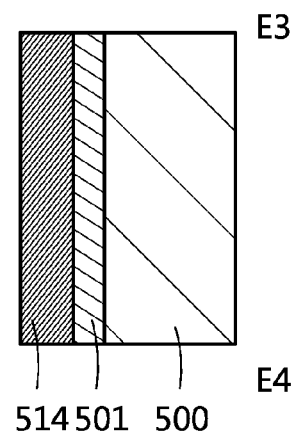


FIG. 16B1

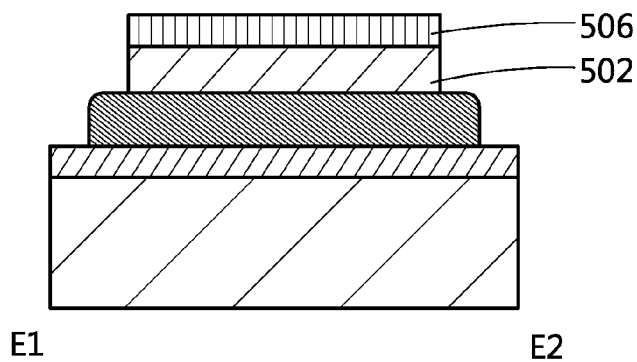


FIG. 16B2

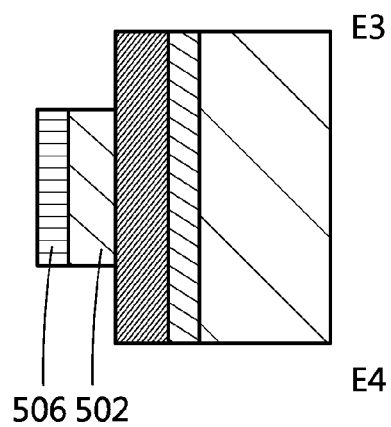


FIG. 16C1

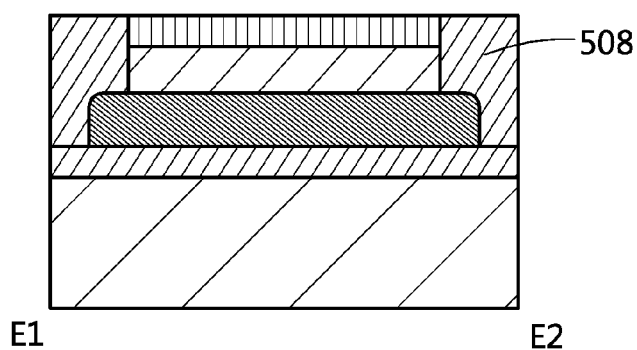


FIG. 16C2

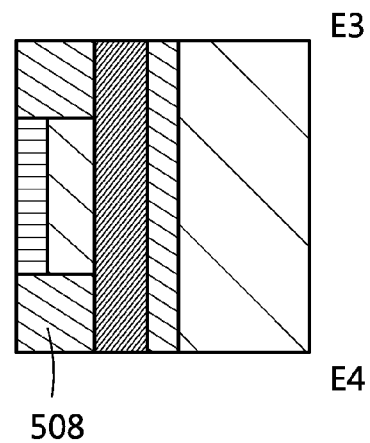


FIG. 17A1

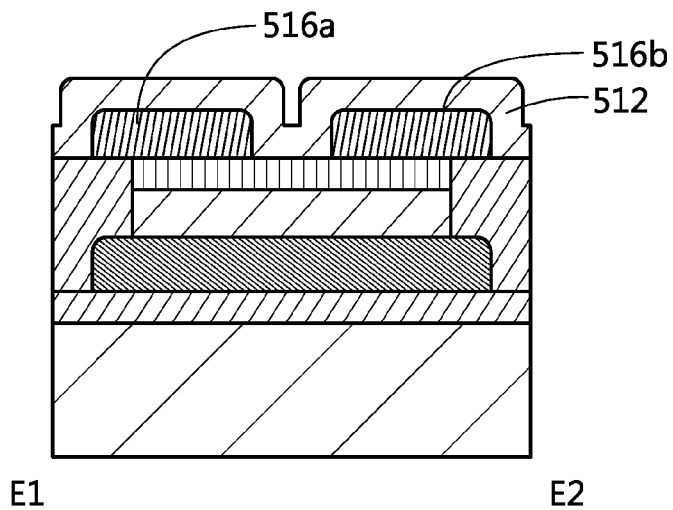


FIG. 17A2

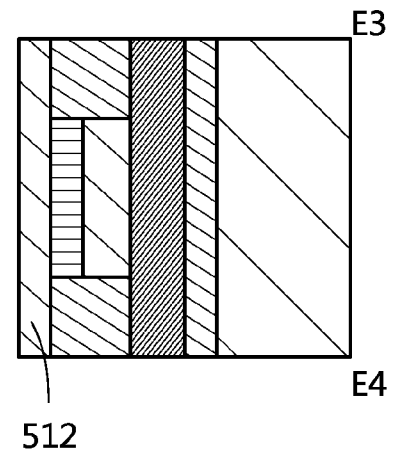


FIG. 17B1

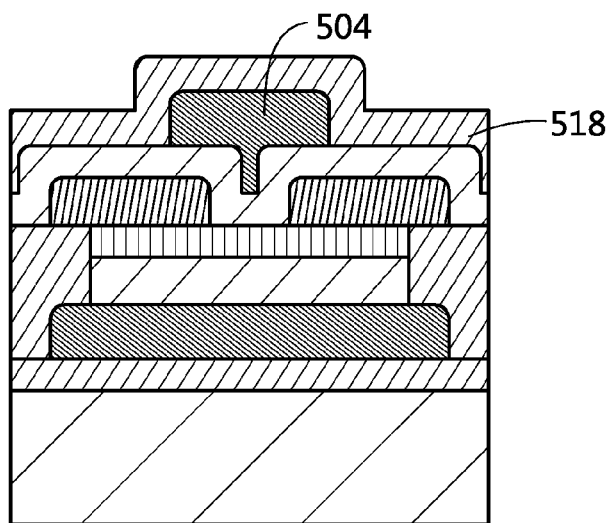


FIG. 17B2

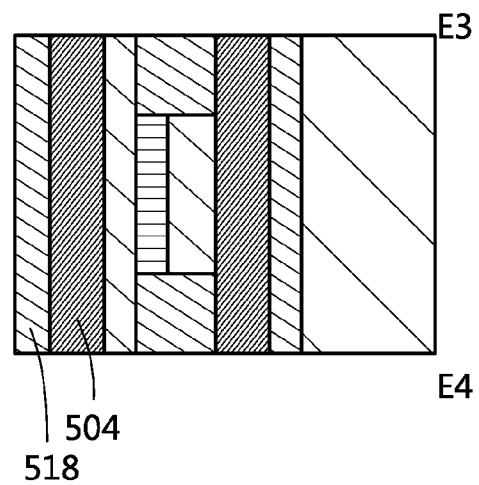


FIG. 18A

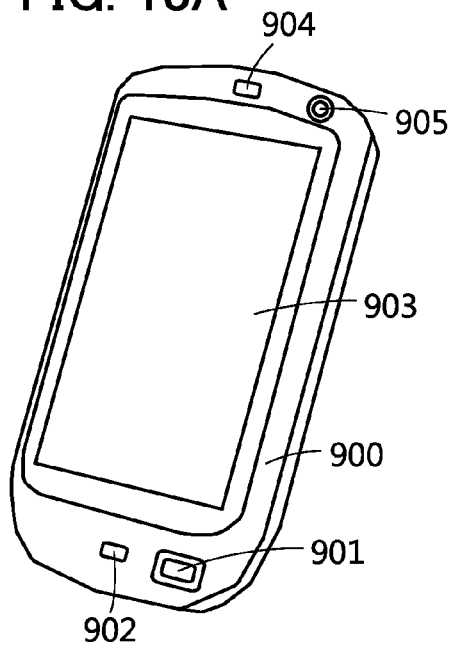


FIG. 18B

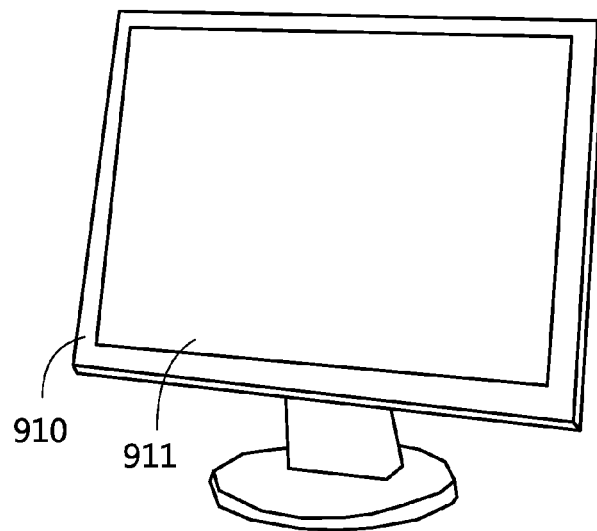


FIG. 18C

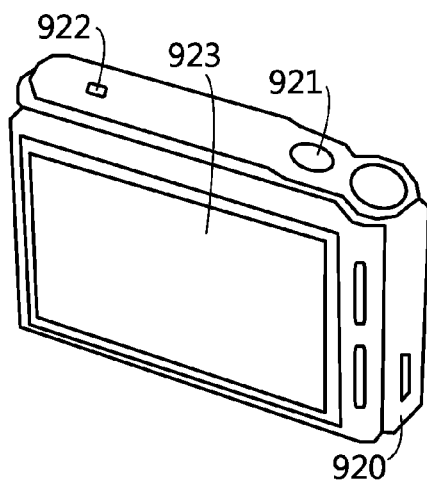
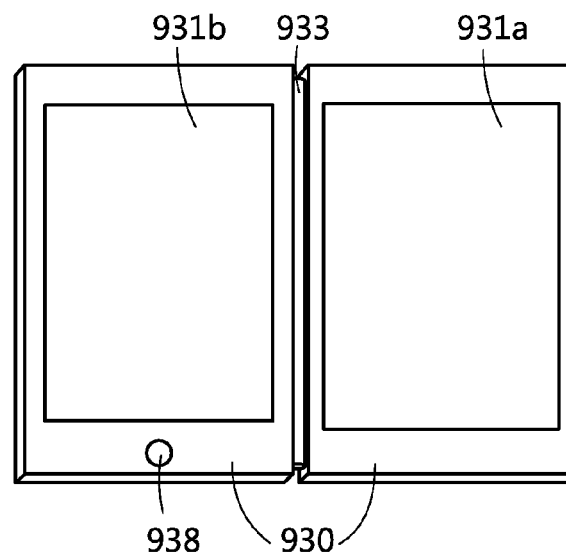


FIG. 18D



SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING THE SAME

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an object, a method, or a manufacturing method. In addition, the present invention relates to a process, a machine, manufacture, or a composition of matter. In particular, the present invention relates to a semiconductor device, a display device, a liquid crystal display device, a light-emitting device, a driving method thereof, or a manufacturing method thereof, for example. Furthermore, the present invention relates to a semiconductor device, a display device, or a light-emitting device each including a transistor, or a driving method thereof, for example. The present invention relates to an electronic appliance or the like including the semiconductor device, the display device, or the light-emitting device.

Note that in this specification, a semiconductor device refers to any device that can function by utilizing semiconductor characteristics, and an electro-optical device, a semiconductor circuit, an electronic appliance, and the like are all included in the category of the semiconductor device.

2. Description of the Related Art

Attention has been focused on a technique for forming a transistor using a semiconductor film which is formed on a substrate having an insulating surface. The transistor is applied to a wide range of semiconductor devices such as an integrated circuit and a display device. A silicon film is known as a semiconductor film applicable to a transistor.

As the silicon film used as a semiconductor film of a transistor, either an amorphous silicon film or a polycrystalline silicon film is used depending on the purpose. For example, in the case of a transistor included in a large-sized display device, it is preferred to use an amorphous silicon film, which can be formed using the established technique for forming a film on a large-sized substrate. On the other hand, in the case of a transistor included in a high-performance display device where driver circuits are formed over the same substrate, it is preferred to use a polycrystalline silicon film, which can form a transistor having a high field-effect mobility.

In recent years, a transistor that includes an oxide semiconductor film containing indium, gallium, and zinc has attracted attention.

An oxide semiconductor film can be formed by a sputtering method or the like, and thus can be used for a transistor included in a large display device. Moreover, a transistor including an oxide semiconductor film has a high field-effect mobility; therefore, a high-performance display device where driver circuits are formed over the same substrate can be obtained. In addition, there is an advantage that capital investment can be reduced because part of production equipment for a transistor including an amorphous silicon film can be retrofitted and utilized.

As a method for providing a transistor including an oxide semiconductor film with stable electrical characteristics, a technique where an insulating film containing excess oxygen is used as an insulating film in contact with an oxide semiconductor film is disclosed (see Patent Document 1). The technique disclosed in Patent Document 1 enables oxygen vacancy in an oxide semiconductor film to be reduced. As a result, variation in electric characteristics of the transistor including the oxide semiconductor film can be reduced and reliability can be improved.

REFERENCE

Patent Document

- 5 [Patent Document 1] Japanese Published Patent Application No. 2012-9836

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

10 One object is to provide a transistor with stable electric characteristics. Another object is to provide a transistor with small variation in electrical characteristics. Another object is to provide a miniaturized transistor. Another object is to provide a transistor having low off-state current. Another object is to provide a transistor having high on-state current.

15 Another object is to provide a semiconductor device including the transistor. Another object is to provide a highly integrated semiconductor device. Another object is to provide a semiconductor device with high productivity. Another object is to provide a semiconductor device with high yield.

20 Note that the descriptions of these objects do not disturb the existence of other objects. In one embodiment of the present invention, there is no need to achieve all the objects. Other objects will be apparent from and can be derived from the description of the specification, the drawings, the claims, and the like.

25 One embodiment of the present invention is, for example, a semiconductor device including an island-shaped stack which is provided over a substrate and includes a base insulating film and an oxide semiconductor film over the base insulating film; a protective insulating film facing a side surface of the stack and not facing a top surface of the stack; a first conductive film and a second conductive film which are provided over and in contact with the stack to be apart from each other; an insulating film over the stack, the first conductive film, and the second conductive film; and a third conductive film over the insulating film.

30 Another embodiment of the present invention is, for example, a semiconductor device including a first conductive film over a substrate; an island-shaped stack which is provided over the first conductive film and includes a base insulating film and an oxide semiconductor film over the base insulating film; a protective insulating film which faces a side surface of the first conductive film and a side surface of the stack and does not face a top surface of the stack; and a second conductive film and a third conductive film which are provided over and in contact with the stack to be apart from each other.

35 Another embodiment of the present invention is, for example, a semiconductor device including a first conductive film over a substrate; an island-shaped stack including a base insulating film over the first conductive film and an oxide semiconductor film over the base insulating film; a protective insulating film which faces a side surface of the first conductive film and a side surface of the stack and does not face a top surface of the stack; a second conductive film and a third conductive film which are provided over and in contact with the stack to be apart from each other; an insulating film over the stack, the second conductive film, and the third conductive film; and a fourth conductive film over the insulating film.

40 In the semiconductor device of one embodiment of the present invention, the protective insulating film is an aluminum oxide film, for example.

45 In the semiconductor device of one embodiment of the present invention, a silicon oxide film including an oxygen-excess region is provided between the stack and the protective insulating film, for example.

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In the semiconductor device of one embodiment of the present invention, the base insulating film is a silicon oxide film including an oxygen-excess region, for example.

In the semiconductor device of one embodiment of the present invention, the oxide semiconductor film contains indium, gallium, and zinc, for example.

In the semiconductor device of one embodiment of the present invention, the stack includes a base oxide semiconductor film between the base insulating film and the oxide semiconductor film, for example. Note that the base oxide semiconductor film preferably contains indium, gallium, and zinc.

In the semiconductor device of one embodiment of the present invention, the stack includes a protective oxide semiconductor film over and in contact with the oxide semiconductor film, for example. Note that the base oxide semiconductor film preferably contains indium, gallium, and zinc.

Another embodiment of the present invention is, for example, a method for manufacturing a semiconductor device, including the steps of forming a base insulating film over a substrate; forming an oxide semiconductor film over the base insulating film; forming an island-shaped mask over the oxide semiconductor film; etching a region over which the mask is not provided in each of the base insulating film and the oxide semiconductor film to form an island-shaped stack and a grid-like groove; removing the mask; forming a protective insulating film over the island-shaped stack and in the grid-like groove; etching and planarizing the protective insulating film until the island-shaped stack is exposed to form a grid-like protective insulating film in the grid-like groove; forming a first conductive film and a second conductive film over the island-shaped stack to be apart from each other; forming an insulating film over the island-shaped stack, the first conductive film, and the second conductive film; and forming a third conductive film over the insulating film.

Another embodiment of the present invention is, for example, a method for manufacturing a semiconductor device, including the steps of forming a base insulating film over a substrate; forming an oxide semiconductor film over the base insulating film; forming an island-shaped mask over the oxide semiconductor film; etching a region over which the mask is not provided in each of the base insulating film and the oxide semiconductor film to form an island-shaped stack and a grid-like groove; forming a protective insulating film over the mask and in the grid-like groove; etching and planarizing the protective insulating film until the mask is exposed to form a grid-like protective insulating film in the grid-like groove; removing the mask; forming a first conductive film and a second conductive film over the island-shaped stack to be apart from each other; forming an insulating film over the island-shaped stack, the first conductive film, and the second conductive film; and forming a third conductive film over the insulating film.

Another embodiment of the present invention is, for example, a method for manufacturing a semiconductor device, including the steps of forming a base insulating film over a substrate; forming an oxide semiconductor film over the base insulating film; forming an island-shaped mask over the oxide semiconductor film; etching a region over which the mask is not provided in each of the base insulating film and the oxide semiconductor film to form an island-shaped stack and a grid-like groove; forming a protective insulating film over the mask and in the grid-like groove; etching and planarizing the protective insulating film until the mask is exposed to form a grid-like protective insulating film in the grid-like groove; forming a resist mask over the mask; etching a region over which the resist mask is not provided in the

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mask to form a first conductive film and a second conductive film being apart from each other; forming an insulating film over the island-shaped stack, the first conductive film, and the second conductive film; and forming a third conductive film over the insulating film.

Another embodiment of the present invention is, for example, a method for manufacturing a semiconductor device, including the steps of forming a first conductive film over a substrate; forming a base insulating film over the first conductive film; forming an oxide semiconductor film over the base insulating film; forming an island-shaped mask over the oxide semiconductor film; etching a region over which the mask is not provided in each of the base insulating film and the oxide semiconductor film to form an island-shaped stack and a grid-like groove; removing the mask; forming a protective insulating film over the island-shaped stack and in the grid-like groove; etching and planarizing the protective insulating film until the island-shaped stack is exposed to form a grid-like protective insulating film in the grid-like groove; and forming a second conductive film and a third conductive film over the island-shaped stack to be apart from each other.

Another embodiment of the present invention is, for example, a method for manufacturing a semiconductor device, including the steps of forming a first conductive film over a substrate; forming a base insulating film over the first conductive film; forming an oxide semiconductor film over the base insulating film; forming an island-shaped mask over the oxide semiconductor film; etching a region over which the mask is not provided in each of the base insulating film and the oxide semiconductor film to form an island-shaped stack and a grid-like groove; forming a protective insulating film over the mask and in the grid-like groove; etching and planarizing the protective insulating film until the mask is exposed to form a grid-like protective insulating film in the grid-like groove; removing the mask; and forming a second conductive film and a third conductive film over the island-shaped stack to be apart from each other.

Another embodiment of the present invention is, for example, a method for manufacturing a semiconductor device, including the steps of forming a first conductive film over a substrate; forming a base insulating film over the first conductive film; forming an oxide semiconductor film over the base insulating film; forming an island-shaped mask over the oxide semiconductor film; etching a region over which the mask is not provided in each of the base insulating film and the oxide semiconductor film to form an island-shaped stack and a grid-like groove; forming a protective insulating film over the mask and in the grid-like groove; etching and planarizing the protective insulating film until the mask is exposed to form a grid-like protective insulating film in the grid-like groove; forming a resist mask over the mask; and etching a region over which the resist mask is not provided in the mask to form a second conductive film and a third conductive film being apart from each other.

In the method for manufacturing a semiconductor device of one embodiment of the present invention, for example, an aluminum oxide film is formed as the protective insulating film. Note that the aluminum oxide film is preferably formed by a sputtering method using a deposition gas containing oxygen.

In the method for manufacturing a semiconductor device of one embodiment of the present invention, for example, a silicon oxide film including an oxygen-excess region and an aluminum oxide film are formed in this order as the protective insulating film.

In the method for manufacturing a semiconductor device of one embodiment of the present invention, for example, a

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silicon oxide film including an oxygen-excess region is formed as the base insulating film.

In the method for manufacturing a semiconductor device of one embodiment of the present invention, for example, an oxide semiconductor film containing indium, gallium, and zinc is formed as the oxide semiconductor film

In the method for manufacturing a semiconductor device of one embodiment of the present invention, for example, a base oxide semiconductor film is formed between the base insulating film and the oxide semiconductor film to be included in the stack. Note that an oxide semiconductor film containing indium, gallium, and zinc is preferably formed as the base oxide semiconductor film.

In the method for manufacturing a semiconductor device of one embodiment of the present invention, for example, a protective oxide semiconductor film over and in contact with the oxide semiconductor film is included in the stack. Note that an oxide semiconductor film containing indium, gallium, and zinc is preferably formed as the protective oxide semiconductor film.

A transistor with stable electric characteristics can be provided. A transistor with small variation in electrical characteristics can be provided. A miniaturized transistor can be provided. A transistor with a low off-state current can be provided. A transistor having a high on-state current can be provided.

A semiconductor device including the transistor can be provided. A highly integrated semiconductor device can be provided. A semiconductor device with high productivity can be provided. A semiconductor device with lower power consumption can be provided.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGS. 1A to 1C are a top view and cross-sectional views illustrating an example of a semiconductor device of one embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 2A to 2C are a top view and cross-sectional views illustrating an example of a semiconductor device of one embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 3A1 to 3C2 are cross-sectional views illustrating an example of a method for manufacturing a semiconductor device of one embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 4A1 to 4C2 are cross-sectional views illustrating an example of a method for manufacturing a semiconductor device of one embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 5A to 5C are a top view and cross-sectional views illustrating an example of a semiconductor device of one embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 6A1 to 6C2 are cross-sectional views illustrating an example of a method for manufacturing a semiconductor device of one embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 7A to 7C are a top view and cross-sectional views illustrating an example of a semiconductor device of one embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 8A1 to 8C2 are cross-sectional views illustrating an example of a method for manufacturing a semiconductor device of one embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 9A1 to 9B2 are cross-sectional views illustrating an example of a method for manufacturing a semiconductor device of one embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 10A to 10C are a top view and cross-sectional views illustrating an example of a semiconductor device of one embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 11A to 11C are a top view and cross-sectional views illustrating an example of a semiconductor device of one embodiment of the present invention.

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FIGS. 12A1 to 12C2 are cross-sectional views illustrating an example of a method for manufacturing a semiconductor device of one embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 13A1 to 13B2 are cross-sectional views illustrating an example of a method for manufacturing a semiconductor device of one embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 14A to 14C are a top view and cross-sectional views illustrating an example of a semiconductor device of one embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 15A to 15C are a top view and cross-sectional views illustrating an example of a semiconductor device of one embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 16A1 to 16C2 are cross-sectional views illustrating an example of a method for manufacturing a semiconductor device of one embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 17A1 to 17B2 are cross-sectional views illustrating an example of a method for manufacturing a semiconductor device of one embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 18A to 18D each illustrate an electronic appliance of one embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Hereinafter, embodiments of the present invention are described in detail with the reference to the drawings. However, the present invention is not limited to the description below, and it is easily understood by those skilled in the art that modes and details disclosed herein can be modified in various ways. Furthermore, the present invention is not construed as being limited to description of the embodiments. In describing structures of the present invention with reference to the drawings, common reference numerals are used for the same portions in different drawings. Note that the same hatched pattern is applied to similar parts, and the similar parts are not especially denoted by reference numerals in some cases.

Note that the size, the thickness of films (layers), or regions in diagrams is sometimes exaggerated for simplicity.

A voltage usually refers to a potential difference between a given potential and a reference potential (e.g., a source potential or a ground potential (GND)). A voltage can be referred to as a potential and vice versa.

Note that the ordinal numbers such as “first” and “second” in this specification are used for convenience and do not denote the order of steps or the stacking order of layers. Therefore, for example, description can be made even when “first” is replaced with “second” or “third”, as appropriate. In addition, the ordinal numbers in this specification do not correspond to the ordinal numbers that specify one embodiment of the present invention in some cases.

Note that a “semiconductor” includes characteristics of an “insulator” in some cases when the conductivity is sufficiently low, for example. In addition, a “semiconductor” and an “insulator” cannot be strictly distinguished from each other in some cases because a border between the “semiconductor” and the “insulator” is not clear. Accordingly, a “semiconductor” in this specification can be called an “insulator” in some cases. Similarly, an “insulator” in this specification can be called a “semiconductor” in some cases.

Further, a “semiconductor” includes characteristics of a “conductor” in some cases when the conductivity is sufficiently high, for example. Further, a “semiconductor” and a “conductor” cannot be strictly distinguished from each other in some cases because a border between the “semiconductor” and the “insulator” is not clear. Accordingly, a “semiconductor” in this specification can be called a “conductor” in some

cases. Similarly, a “conductor” in this specification can be called a “semiconductor” in some cases.

Note that an impurity in a semiconductor film refers to, for example, elements other than the main components of a semiconductor film. For example, an element with a concentration of lower than 0.1 atomic % is an impurity. When an impurity is contained, density of states (DOS) may be formed in the semiconductor film, the carrier mobility may be decreased, or the crystallinity may be lowered, for example. In the case where the semiconductor film is an oxide semiconductor film, examples of an impurity which changes characteristics of the semiconductor film include Group 1 elements, Group 2 elements, Group 14 elements, Group 15 elements, and transition metals other than the main components; specifically, there are hydrogen (included in water), lithium, sodium, silicon, boron, phosphorus, carbon, and nitrogen, for example. In the case where the semiconductor film is an oxide semiconductor film, oxygen vacancies may be formed by entry of impurities. Further, when the semiconductor film is a silicon film, examples of an impurity which changes the characteristics of the semiconductor film include oxygen, Group 1 elements except hydrogen, Group 2 elements, Group 13 elements, and Group 15 elements.

In this specification, a term “parallel” indicates that the angle formed between two straight lines is greater than or equal to -10° and less than or equal to 10° , and accordingly also includes the case where the angle is greater than or equal to -5° and less than or equal to 5° . In addition, a term “perpendicular” indicates that the angle formed between two straight lines is greater than or equal to 80° and less than or equal to 100° , and accordingly includes the case where the angle is greater than or equal to 85° and less than or equal to 95° .

<Transistor Structure (1)>

A transistor of one embodiment of the present invention is described with reference to FIGS. 1A to 1C and FIGS. 2A to 2C.

FIG. 1A is a top view of the transistor. Here, some films are not illustrated for easy understanding.

FIG. 1B is a cross-sectional view taken along dashed dotted line A1-A2 in FIG. 1A. FIG. 1C is a cross-sectional view taken along dashed-dotted line A3-A4 in FIG. 1A.

The transistor in FIGS. 1A to 1C includes an insulating film 101 over a substrate 100; an insulating film 102 over the insulating film 101; an oxide semiconductor film 106 over the insulating film 102; and an insulating film 108 that is provided over the insulating film 101 and in contact with the side surface of the insulating film 102 and the side surface of the oxide semiconductor film 106. Note that the top surface of the oxide semiconductor film 106 is positioned at substantially the same level as the top surface of the insulating film 108. Furthermore, the transistor in FIGS. 1A to 1C includes a conductive film 116a and a conductive film 116b that are over and in contact with at least the oxide semiconductor film 106 to be apart from each other; an insulating film 112 over the oxide semiconductor film 106, the conductive film 116a, and the conductive film 116b; a conductive film 104 over the insulating film 112; and an insulating film 118 over the insulating film 112 and the conductive film 104. Note that the transistor does not necessarily include all of the insulating film 101, the conductive film 116a, the conductive film 116b, and the insulating film 118.

In the transistor in FIGS. 1A to 1C, the conductive film 116a and the conductive film 116b function as a source electrode and a drain electrode. The insulating film 112 functions as a gate insulating film. The conductive film 104 functions as a gate electrode.

Note that although the side surface of each film included in the transistor in FIGS. 1A to 1C has a steep angle, one embodiment of the present invention is not limited to this shape. For example, the side surface of each film may have a tapered angle. For example, in the cross-sectional view, an inner angle (an angle inside a film) formed by a line passing through three or more points (points 3 nm or more away from one another) of a surface where the film is formed and a line passing through three or more points (points 3 nm or more away from one another) of the side surface of the film is greater than or equal to 70° and less than 90° , preferably greater than or equal to 80° and less than 90° , further preferably greater than or equal to 85° and less than 90° . The tapered angle within the above range can reduce the area of the transistor in the top view. In addition, although the top edge of each of the conductive film 116a, the conductive film 116b, the insulating film 112, the conductive film 104, and the insulating film 118 has a curvature, one embodiment of the present invention is not limited to this shape.

Although the insulating film 112 is provided over the oxide semiconductor film 106, the insulating film 108, the conductive film 116a, and the conductive film 116b in the cross-sectional view of the transistor in FIG. 1B, one embodiment of the present invention is not limited to this shape. For example, the insulating film 112 may be provided only in a region which overlaps the conductive film 104 in the top view of the transistor in FIG. 1A.

An sidewall insulating film may be provided in contact with the side surface of the conductive film 104. In the case where the sidewall insulating film is provided, the insulating film 112 may be provided only in a region which overlaps the conductive film 104 and the sidewall insulating film in the top view. Description of another insulating film is referred to for the sidewall insulating film.

For example, the insulating film 101 may be formed of a single layer or a stacked layer using an insulating film containing one or more of aluminum oxide, magnesium oxide, silicon oxide, silicon oxynitride, silicon nitride oxide, silicon nitride, gallium oxide, germanium oxide, yttrium oxide, zirconium oxide, lanthanum oxide, neodymium oxide, hafnium oxide, and tantalum oxide.

It is preferable to use an insulating film having an oxygen-blocking property as the insulating film 101. An example of the insulating film having an oxygen-blocking property is an insulating film having a small diffusion coefficient of oxygen.

The insulating film having an oxygen-blocking property has a smaller diffusion coefficient of oxygen (including an oxygen atom and a molecule including an oxygen atom) than, for example, a silicon oxide film. Therefore, the amount of oxygen which penetrates (passes through) the insulating film having an oxygen-blocking property is smaller than that which penetrates (passes through) a silicon oxide film. For example, the amount of oxygen which penetrates (passes through) the insulating film having an oxygen-blocking property is less than 20%, less than 15%, less than 10%, less than 5%, less than 2%, or less than 1% of the amount of oxygen which penetrates (passes through) the silicon oxide film.

It is preferable to use an insulating film having a hydrogen-blocking property as the insulating film 101. An example of the insulating film having a hydrogen-blocking property is an insulating film having a small diffusion coefficient of hydrogen.

The insulating film having a hydrogen-blocking property has a smaller diffusion coefficient of hydrogen (including a hydrogen atom and a molecule including a hydrogen atom) than, for example, a silicon oxide film. Therefore, the amount of hydrogen which penetrates (passes through) the insulating

film having a hydrogen-blocking property is smaller than that which penetrates (passes through) a silicon oxide film. For example, the amount of hydrogen which penetrates (passes through) the insulating film having a hydrogen-blocking property is less than 20%, less than 15%, less than 10%, less than 5%, less than 2%, or less than 1% of the amount of hydrogen which penetrates (passes through) the silicon oxide film.

As the insulating film **101**, an insulating film which releases a small amount of hydrogen is preferably used. The amount of released hydrogen can be measured by thermal desorption spectroscopy (TDS). The amount of a gas having a mass-to-charge ratio (m/z) of 2 which is released from the insulating film that releases a small amount of hydrogen is less than $1 \times 10^{15}/\text{cm}^2$, preferably less than $5 \times 10^{14}/\text{cm}^2$, further preferably less than $2 \times 10^{14}/\text{cm}^2$, still further preferably less than $1 \times 10^{14}/\text{cm}^2$ when measured by TDS analysis in which the sample temperature falls within 150°C . to 450°C .

For example, the insulating film **102** may be formed of a single layer or a stacked layer using an insulating film containing one or more of aluminum oxide, magnesium oxide, silicon oxide, silicon oxynitride, silicon nitride oxide, silicon nitride, gallium oxide, germanium oxide, yttrium oxide, zirconium oxide, lanthanum oxide, neodymium oxide, hafnium oxide, and tantalum oxide.

Furthermore, as the insulating film **102**, an insulating film containing excess oxygen is used. An insulating film containing excess oxygen refers to an insulating film from which oxygen is released by heat treatment.

The insulating film containing excess oxygen is capable of reducing oxygen vacancy in the oxide semiconductor film **106**. Such oxygen vacancy in the oxide semiconductor film **106** serves as a hole trap or the like. In addition, hydrogen enters into the site of such oxygen vacancy and in some cases forms an electron. Therefore, by reducing the oxygen vacancy in the oxide semiconductor film **106**, the transistor can have stable electrical characteristics.

Here, a film from which oxygen is released by heat treatment may release oxygen, the amount of which is higher than or equal to 1×10^{18} atoms/ cm^3 , higher than or equal to 1×10^{19} atoms/ cm^3 , or higher than or equal to 1×10^{20} atoms/ cm^3 in TDS analysis (converted into the number of oxygen atoms) in the range of a surface temperature of 100°C . to 700°C . or 100°C . to 500°C .

Alternatively, the film from which oxygen is released by heat treatment may contain a peroxide radical. Specifically, the spin density attributed to the peroxide radical may be higher than or equal to 5×10^{17} spins/ cm^3 . Note that the film containing a peroxide radical may have an asymmetric signal with a g factor of approximately 2.01 in electron spin resonance (ESR).

The insulating film containing excess oxygen may be oxygen-excess silicon oxide (SiO_x ($x > 2$)). In the oxygen-excess silicon oxide (SiO_x ($x > 2$)), the number of oxygen atoms per unit volume is more than twice the number of silicon atoms per unit volume. The number of silicon atoms and the number of oxygen atoms per unit volume are measured by Rutherford backscattering spectrometry (RBS).

The insulating film **102** may be, for example, a stack including a silicon nitride film as a first layer and a silicon oxide film as a second layer. In that case, the silicon oxide film may be a silicon oxynitride film. A silicon nitride oxide film may be used instead of the silicon nitride film. It is preferable to use a silicon oxide film whose defect density is small as the silicon oxide film. Specifically, a silicon oxide film whose spin density attributed to a signal with a g factor of 2.001 in ESR is lower than or equal to 3×10^{17} spins/ cm^3 , preferably

lower than or equal to 5×10^{16} spins/ cm^3 is used. As the silicon nitride film, a silicon nitride film which releases a small amount of hydrogen and ammonia is used. The amount of released hydrogen and ammonia may be measured by TDS analysis. Furthermore, as the silicon nitride film, a silicon nitride film which does not transmit or hardly transmits hydrogen, water, and oxygen is used.

Alternatively, the insulating film **102** may be, for example, a stack including a silicon nitride film as a first layer, a first silicon oxide film as a second layer, and a second silicon oxide film as a third layer. In that case, the first silicon oxide film and/or the second silicon oxide film may be a silicon oxynitride film. A silicon nitride oxide film may be used instead of the silicon nitride film. It is preferable to use a silicon oxide film whose defect density is small as the first silicon oxide film. Specifically, a silicon oxide film whose spin density attributed to a signal with a g factor of 2.001 in ESR is lower than or equal to 3×10^{17} spins/ cm^3 , preferably lower than or equal to 5×10^{16} spins/ cm^3 is used. As the second silicon oxide film, a silicon oxide film containing excess oxygen is used. As the silicon nitride film, a silicon nitride film which releases a small amount of hydrogen and ammonia is used. Further, as the silicon nitride film, a silicon nitride film which does not transmit or hardly transmits hydrogen, water, and oxygen is used.

Alternatively, the insulating film **102** may be a stack including an oxide semiconductor film. For the oxide semiconductor film, the oxide semiconductor film **106** described later is referred to.

The oxide semiconductor film **106** is described below.

The oxide semiconductor film **106** is an oxide containing indium. An oxide can have a high carrier mobility (electron mobility) by containing indium, for example. The oxide semiconductor film **106** preferably contains an element M. The element M is aluminum, gallium, yttrium, or tin, for example. The element M is an element having a high bonding energy with oxygen, for example. The element M is an element that can increase the energy gap of the oxide, for example. Furthermore, the oxide semiconductor film **106** preferably contains zinc. When the oxide contains zinc, the oxide is easily crystallized, for example. The energy of the top of the valence band in the oxide can be controlled with the atomic ratio of zinc, for example.

Note that the oxide semiconductor film **106** is not limited to the oxide containing indium. The oxide semiconductor film **106** may be, for example, a Zn—Sn oxide or a Ga—Sn oxide.

A first oxide semiconductor film and a second oxide semiconductor film may be provided over and under a channel formation region in the oxide semiconductor film **106**. Note that the second oxide semiconductor film is provided to be closer to the conductive film **104** than the first oxide semiconductor is.

The first oxide semiconductor film and the second oxide semiconductor film each contain one or more elements that are not oxygen and are contained in the oxide semiconductor film **106**. Since the first oxide semiconductor film and the second oxide semiconductor film contains one or more elements that are not oxygen and are contained in the oxide semiconductor film **106**, an interface state is less likely to be formed at the interfaces between the oxide semiconductor film **106** and each of the first oxide semiconductor film and the second oxide semiconductor film.

In the case where the first oxide semiconductor film is an In-M-Zn oxide, when summation of In and M is assumed to be 100 atomic %, the proportions of In and M are preferably set to less than 50 atomic % and greater than or equal to 50 atomic %, respectively, and further preferably less than 25

atomic % and greater than or equal to 75 atomic %, respectively. In the case where the oxide semiconductor film 106 is an In-M-Zn oxide, when summation of In and M is assumed to be 100 atomic %, the proportions of In and M are preferably set to greater than or equal to 25 atomic % and less than 75 atomic %, respectively, and further preferably greater than or equal to 34 atomic % and less than 66 atomic %, respectively. In the case where the second oxide semiconductor film is an In-M-Zn oxide, when summation of In and M is assumed to be 100 atomic %, the proportions of In and M are preferably set to less than 50 atomic % and greater than or equal to 50 atomic %, respectively, and further preferably less than 25 atomic % and greater than or equal to 75 atomic %, respectively. Note that the second oxide semiconductor film may be formed using the same kind of oxide as that of the first oxide semiconductor film.

Here, in some cases, there is a mixed region of the first oxide semiconductor film and the oxide semiconductor film 106 between the first oxide semiconductor film and the oxide semiconductor film 106. Furthermore, in some cases, there is a mixed region of the oxide semiconductor film 106 and the second oxide semiconductor film between the oxide semiconductor film 106 and the second oxide semiconductor film. The mixed region has a low density of interface states. For that reason, the stack including the first oxide semiconductor film, the oxide semiconductor film 106, and the second oxide semiconductor film has a band structure where energy at each interface and in the vicinity of the interface is changed continuously (continuous junction).

As the oxide semiconductor film 106, an oxide having an electron affinity higher than those of the first oxide semiconductor film and the second oxide semiconductor film is used. For example, as the oxide semiconductor film 106, an oxide having an electron affinity higher than those of the first oxide semiconductor film and the second oxide semiconductor film by greater than or equal to 0.07 eV and less than or equal to 1.3 eV, preferably greater than or equal to 0.1 eV and less than or equal to 0.7 eV, further preferably greater than or equal to 0.15 eV and less than or equal to 0.4 eV is used. Note that the electron affinity refers to an energy gap between the vacuum level and the bottom of the conduction band.

In that case, when an electric field is applied to the conductive film 104, a channel is formed in the oxide semiconductor film 106, which has an electron affinity higher than those of the first oxide semiconductor film and the second oxide semiconductor film.

To increase the on-state current of the transistor, the thickness of the second oxide semiconductor film is preferably as small as possible. The thickness of the second oxide semiconductor film is less than 10 nm, preferably less than or equal to 5 nm, further preferably less than or equal to 3 nm, for example. Meanwhile, the second oxide semiconductor film has a function of blocking elements other than oxygen (such as silicon) contained in the insulating film 112 from entering the oxide semiconductor film 106 where a channel is formed. For this reason, the second oxide semiconductor film preferably has a certain degree of thickness. The thickness of the second oxide semiconductor film is greater than or equal to 0.3 nm, preferably greater than or equal to 1 nm, further preferably greater than or equal to 2 nm, for example.

To improve reliability, it is preferable that the thickness of the first oxide semiconductor film be large, the thickness of the oxide semiconductor film 106 be small, and the thickness of the second oxide semiconductor film be small. Specifically, the thickness of the first oxide semiconductor film is greater than or equal to 20 nm, preferably greater than or equal to 30 nm, further preferably greater than or equal to 40

nm, still further preferably greater than or equal to 60 nm. In that case, the distance from the interface between the insulating film 102 and the first oxide semiconductor film to the oxide semiconductor film 106 where the channel is formed can be greater than or equal to 20 nm, preferably greater than or equal to 30 nm, more preferably greater than or equal to 40 nm, still more preferably greater than or equal to 60 nm. Note that to prevent the productivity of the semiconductor device from being lowered, the thickness of the first oxide semiconductor film is less than or equal to 200 nm, preferably less than or equal to 120 nm, more preferably less than or equal to 80 nm. The thickness of the oxide semiconductor film 106 is greater than or equal to 3 nm and less than or equal to 100 nm, preferably greater than or equal to 3 nm and less than or equal to 80 nm, further preferably greater than or equal to 3 nm and less than or equal to 50 nm.

For example, the thickness of the first oxide semiconductor film may be larger than that of the oxide semiconductor film 106, and the thickness of the oxide semiconductor film 106 may be larger than that of the second oxide semiconductor film.

The influence of impurities in the oxide semiconductor film 106 is described below. In order that the transistor have stable electrical characteristics, it is effective to reduce the concentration of impurities in the oxide semiconductor film 106 so that the oxide semiconductor film 106 has a lower carrier density and is highly purified. The carrier density of the oxide semiconductor film 106 is lower than $1 \times 10^{17}/\text{cm}^3$, lower than $1 \times 10^{15}/\text{cm}^3$, or lower than $1 \times 10^{13}/\text{cm}^3$. In order to reduce the concentration of impurities in the oxide semiconductor film 106, the concentration of impurities in a film that is adjacent to the oxide semiconductor film 106 is also preferably reduced.

For example, silicon contained in the oxide semiconductor film 106 might serve as a carrier trap or a carrier generation source. Thus, the concentration of silicon in a region between the oxide semiconductor film 106 and the first oxide semiconductor film, which is measured by secondary ion mass spectrometry (SIMS), is set to lower than 1×10^{19} atoms/ cm^3 , preferably lower than 5×10^{18} atoms/ cm^3 , still further preferably lower than 2×10^{18} atoms/ cm^3 . The concentration of silicon in a region between the oxide semiconductor film 106 and the second oxide semiconductor film, which is measured by SIMS, is set to lower than 1×10^{19} atoms/ cm^3 , preferably lower than 5×10^{18} atoms/ cm^3 , further preferably lower than 2×10^{18} atoms/ cm^3 .

When hydrogen is contained in the oxide semiconductor film 106, carrier density might be increased. Therefore, the concentration of hydrogen in the oxide semiconductor film 106 measured by SIMS is set to lower than or equal to 2×10^{20} atoms/ cm^3 , preferably lower than or equal to 5×10^{19} atoms/ cm^3 , further preferably lower than or equal to 1×10^{19} atoms/ cm^3 , still further preferably lower than or equal to 5×10^{18} atoms/ cm^3 . When nitrogen is contained in the oxide semiconductor film 106, carrier density might be increased. The concentration of nitrogen in the oxide semiconductor film 106 measured by SIMS is set to lower than 5×10^{19} atoms/ cm^3 , preferably lower than or equal to 5×10^{18} atoms/ cm^3 , further preferably lower than or equal to 1×10^{18} atoms/ cm^3 , still further preferably lower than or equal to 5×10^{17} atoms/ cm^3 .

It is also preferable to reduce the concentration of hydrogen in each of the first oxide semiconductor film and the second oxide semiconductor film in order to reduce the concentration of hydrogen in the oxide semiconductor film 106. The concentration of hydrogen in each of the first oxide semiconductor film and the second oxide semiconductor film measured by SIMS is lower than or equal to 2×10^{20} atoms/ cm^3 , prefer-

ably lower than or equal to 5×10^{19} atoms/cm³, further preferably lower than or equal to 1×10^{19} atoms/cm³, still further preferably lower than or equal to 5×10^{18} atoms/cm³. It is also preferable to reduce the concentration of nitrogen in each of the first oxide semiconductor film and the second oxide semiconductor film in order to reduce the concentration of nitrogen in the oxide semiconductor film 106. The concentration of nitrogen in each of the first oxide semiconductor film and the second oxide semiconductor film measured by SIMS is lower than 5×10^{19} atoms/cm³, preferably lower than or equal to 5×10^{18} atoms/cm³, further preferably lower than or equal to 1×10^{18} atoms/cm³, still further preferably lower than or equal to 5×10^{17} atoms/cm³.

A structure of the oxide semiconductor film is described below.

An oxide semiconductor film is classified roughly into a single-crystal oxide semiconductor film and a non-single-crystal oxide semiconductor film. The non-single-crystal oxide semiconductor film includes any of a c-axis aligned crystalline oxide semiconductor (CAAC-OS) film, a polycrystalline oxide semiconductor film, a microcrystalline oxide semiconductor film, an amorphous oxide semiconductor film, and the like.

First, a CAAC-OS film is described.

The CAAC-OS film is one of oxide semiconductor films having a plurality of c-axis aligned crystal parts.

In a transmission electron microscope (TEM) image of the CAAC-OS film, a boundary between crystal parts, that is, a grain boundary is not clearly observed. Thus, in the CAAC-OS film, a reduction in electron mobility due to the grain boundary is less likely to occur.

According to the TEM image of the CAAC-OS film observed in a direction substantially parallel to a sample surface (cross-sectional TEM image), metal atoms are arranged in a layered manner in the crystal parts. Each metal atom layer has a morphology reflected by a surface over which the CAAC-OS film is formed (hereinafter, a surface over which the CAAC-OS film is formed is referred to as a formation surface) or a top surface of the CAAC-OS film, and is arranged in parallel to the formation surface or the top surface of the CAAC-OS film.

On the other hand, according to the TEM image of the CAAC-OS film observed in a direction substantially perpendicular to the sample surface (plan TEM image), metal atoms are arranged in a triangular or hexagonal configuration in the crystal parts. However, there is no regularity of arrangement of metal atoms between different crystal parts.

From the results of the cross-sectional TEM image and the plan TEM image, alignment is found in the crystal parts in the CAAC-OS film.

Most of the crystal parts included in the CAAC-OS film each fit inside a cube whose one side is less than 100 nm. Thus, there is a case where a crystal part included in the CAAC-OS film fits inside a cube whose one side is less than 10 nm, less than 5 nm, or less than 3 nm. Note that when a plurality of crystal parts included in the CAAC-OS film are connected to each other, one large crystal region is formed in some cases. For example, a crystal region with an area of 2500 nm² or more, 5 μm² or more, or 1000 μm² or more is observed in some cases in the plan TEM image.

A CAAC-OS film is subjected to structural analysis with an X-ray diffraction (XRD) apparatus. For example, when the CAAC-OS film including an InGaZnO₄ crystal is analyzed by an out-of-plane method, a peak appears frequently when the diffraction angle (2θ) is around 31°. This peak is derived from the (009) plane of the InGaZnO₄ crystal, which indicates that crystals in the CAAC-OS film have c-axis alignment, and that

the c-axes are aligned in a direction substantially perpendicular to the formation surface or the top surface of the CAAC-OS film.

On the other hand, when the CAAC-OS film is analyzed by an in-plane method in which an X-ray enters a sample in a direction substantially perpendicular to the c-axis, a peak appears frequently when 2θ is around 56°. This peak is derived from the (110) plane of the InGaZnO₄ crystal. Here, analysis (φ scan) is performed under conditions where the sample is rotated around a normal vector of a sample surface as an axis (φ axis) with 2θ fixed at around 56°. In the case where the sample is a single-crystal oxide semiconductor film of InGaZnO₄, six peaks appear. The six peaks are derived from crystal planes equivalent to the (110) plane. On the other hand, in the case of a CAAC-OS film, a peak is not clearly observed even when φ scan is performed with 2θ fixed at around 56°.

According to the above results, in the CAAC-OS film having c-axis alignment, while the directions of a-axes and b-axes are different between crystal parts, the c-axes are aligned in a direction parallel to a normal vector of a formation surface or a normal vector of a top surface. Thus, each metal atom layer arranged in a layered manner observed in the cross-sectional TEM image corresponds to a plane parallel to the a-b plane of the crystal.

Note that the crystal part is formed concurrently with deposition of the CAAC-OS film or is formed through crystallization treatment such as heat treatment. As described above, the c-axis of the crystal is aligned in a direction parallel to a normal vector of a formation surface or a normal vector of a top surface. Thus, for example, in the case where a shape of the CAAC-OS film is changed by etching or the like, the c-axis might not be necessarily parallel to a normal vector of a formation surface or a normal vector of a top surface of the CAAC-OS film.

Furthermore, distribution of c-axis aligned crystal parts in the CAAC-OS film is not necessarily uniform. For example, in the case where crystal growth leading to the crystal parts of the CAAC-OS film occurs from the vicinity of the top surface of the film, the proportion of the c-axis aligned crystal parts in the vicinity of the top surface is higher than that in the vicinity of the formation surface in some cases. In addition, when an impurity is added to the CAAC-OS film, a region to which the impurity is added is altered, and the proportion of the c-axis aligned crystal parts in the CAAC-OS film varies depending on regions, in some cases.

Note that when the CAAC-OS film with an InGaZnO₄ crystal is analyzed by an out-of-plane method, a peak of 2θ may also be observed at around 36°, in addition to the peak of 2θ at around 31°. The peak of 2θ at around 36° indicates that a crystal having no c-axis alignment is included in part of the CAAC-OS film. It is preferable that in the CAAC-OS film, a peak of 2θ appears at around 31° and a peak of 2θ do not appear at around 36°.

The CAAC-OS film is an oxide semiconductor film having low impurity concentration. The impurity is an element other than the main components of the oxide semiconductor film, such as hydrogen, carbon, silicon, or a transition metal element. In particular, an element that has higher bonding strength to oxygen than a metal element included in the oxide semiconductor film, such as silicon, disturbs the atomic arrangement of the oxide semiconductor film by depriving the oxide semiconductor film of oxygen and causes a decrease in crystallinity. Furthermore, a heavy metal such as iron or nickel, argon, carbon dioxide, or the like has a large atomic radius (molecular radius), and thus disturbs the atomic arrangement of the oxide semiconductor film and causes a

decrease in crystallinity when it is contained in the oxide semiconductor film. Note that the impurity contained in the oxide semiconductor film might serve as a carrier trap or a carrier generation source.

The CAAC-OS film is an oxide semiconductor film having a low density of defect states. In some cases, oxygen vacancies in the oxide semiconductor film serve as carrier traps or serve as carrier generation sources when hydrogen is captured therein.

The state in which impurity concentration is low and density of defect states is low (the number of oxygen vacancies is small) is referred to as a "highly purified intrinsic" or "substantially highly purified intrinsic" state. A highly purified intrinsic or substantially highly purified intrinsic oxide semiconductor film has few carrier generation sources, and thus can have a low carrier density. Thus, a transistor including the oxide semiconductor film rarely has negative threshold voltage (is rarely normally on). The highly purified intrinsic or substantially highly purified intrinsic oxide semiconductor film has a low density of defect states, and thus has few carrier traps. Accordingly, the transistor including the oxide semiconductor film has little variation in electrical characteristics and high reliability. Electric charge trapped by the carrier traps in the oxide semiconductor film takes a long time to be released, and might behave like fixed electric charge. Thus, the transistor which includes the oxide semiconductor film having high impurity concentration and a high density of defect states has unstable electrical characteristics in some cases.

With the use of the CAAC-OS film in a transistor, variation in the electrical characteristics of the transistor due to irradiation with visible light or ultraviolet light is small.

Next, a microcrystalline oxide semiconductor film is described.

In an image obtained with the TEM, crystal parts cannot be found clearly in the microcrystalline oxide semiconductor in some cases. In most cases, a crystal part in the microcrystalline oxide semiconductor is greater than or equal to 1 nm and less than or equal to 100 nm, or greater than or equal to 1 nm and less than or equal to 10 nm. A microcrystal with a size greater than or equal to 1 nm and less than or equal to 10 nm, or a size greater than or equal to 1 nm and less than or equal to 3 nm is specifically referred to as nanocrystal (nc). An oxide semiconductor film including nanocrystal is referred to as an nc-OS (nanocrystalline oxide semiconductor) film. In an image obtained with TEM, a crystal grain cannot be found clearly in the nc-OS film in some cases.

In the nc-OS film, a microscopic region (for example, a region with a size greater than or equal to 1 nm and less than or equal to 10 nm, in particular, a region with a size greater than or equal to 1 nm and less than or equal to 3 nm) has a periodic atomic order. Note that there is no regularity of crystal orientation between different crystal parts in the nc-OS film. Thus, the orientation of the whole film is not observed. Accordingly, in some cases, the nc-OS film cannot be distinguished from an amorphous oxide semiconductor film depending on an analysis method. For example, when the nc-OS film is subjected to structural analysis by an out-of-plane method with an XRD apparatus using an X-ray having a diameter larger than that of a crystal part, a peak which shows a crystal plane does not appear. Further, a halo pattern is shown in a selected-area electron diffraction pattern of the nc-OS film obtained by using an electron beam having a probe diameter larger than the diameter of a crystal part (e.g., larger than or equal to 50 nm). Meanwhile, spots are shown in a nanobeam electron diffraction pattern of the nc-OS film obtained by using an electron beam having a probe diameter

(e.g., larger than or equal to 1 nm and smaller than or equal to 30 nm) close to, or smaller than or equal to the diameter of a crystal part. Further, in a nanobeam electron diffraction pattern of the nc-OS film, regions with high luminance in a circular (ring) pattern are observed in some cases. Also in a nanobeam electron diffraction pattern of the nc-OS film, a plurality of spots are shown in a ring-like region in some cases.

The nc-OS film is an oxide semiconductor film that has high regularity as compared to an amorphous oxide semiconductor film. Therefore, the nc-OS film has a lower density of defect states than an amorphous oxide semiconductor film. Note that there is no regularity of crystal orientation between different crystal parts in the nc-OS film. However, there is no regularity of crystal orientation between different crystal parts in the nc-OS film; hence, the nc-OS film has a higher density of defect states than the CAAC-OS film.

Note that an oxide semiconductor film may be a stacked film including two or more kinds of an amorphous oxide semiconductor film, a microcrystalline oxide semiconductor film, and a CAAC-OS film, for example.

For example, the insulating film 108 illustrated in FIGS. 1A to 1C may be formed of a single layer or a stacked layer using an insulating film containing one or more of aluminum oxide, magnesium oxide, silicon oxide, silicon oxynitride, silicon nitride oxide, silicon nitride, gallium oxide, germanium oxide, yttrium oxide, zirconium oxide, lanthanum oxide, neodymium oxide, hafnium oxide, and tantalum oxide.

It is preferable to use an insulating film having an oxygen-blocking property as the insulating film 108. Furthermore, it is preferable to use an insulating film containing excess oxygen as the insulating film 108. It is preferable to use an insulating film having a hydrogen-blocking property as the insulating film 108. It is preferable to use an insulating film which releases a small amount of hydrogen as the insulating film 108.

Note that as illustrated in FIGS. 2A to 2C, an insulating film 108a and an insulating film 108b may be used as the insulating film 108. The insulating film 108b is provided between the insulating film 108a and each of the insulating film 101, the insulating film 102, and the oxide semiconductor film 106.

For example, the insulating film 108a may be formed of a single layer or a stacked layer using an insulating film containing one or more of aluminum oxide, magnesium oxide, silicon nitride oxide, silicon nitride, gallium oxide, germanium oxide, yttrium oxide, zirconium oxide, lanthanum oxide, neodymium oxide, hafnium oxide, and tantalum oxide.

An insulating film having an oxygen-blocking property is used as the insulating film 108a. Furthermore, as the insulating film 108a, an insulating film containing excess oxygen is preferably used. An insulating film having a hydrogen-blocking property is preferably used as the insulating film 108a. An insulating film which releases a small amount of hydrogen is preferably used as the insulating film 108a.

The insulating film 108b is formed of, for example, a single layer or a stacked layer of an insulating film containing silicon oxide or silicon oxynitride. As the insulating film 108b, an insulating film containing excess oxygen is preferably used.

The conductive film 116a and the conductive film 116b illustrated in FIGS. 1A to 1C may be formed using a single layer or a stacked layer of a conductive film containing one or more of aluminum, titanium, chromium, cobalt, nickel, copper, yttrium, zirconium, molybdenum, ruthenium, silver, tantalum, and tungsten, for example.

For example, the insulating film 112 may be formed of a single layer or a stacked layer using an insulating film con-

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taining one or more of aluminum oxide, magnesium oxide, silicon oxide, silicon oxynitride, silicon nitride oxide, silicon nitride, gallium oxide, germanium oxide, yttrium oxide, zirconium oxide, lanthanum oxide, neodymium oxide, hafnium oxide, and tantalum oxide.

As the insulating film **112**, an insulating film containing excess oxygen is preferably used.

The insulating film **112** may be, for example, a stack including a silicon nitride film as a first layer and a silicon oxide film as a second layer. In that case, the silicon oxide film may be a silicon oxynitride film. A silicon nitride oxide film may be used instead of the silicon nitride film. It is preferable to use a silicon oxide film whose defect density is small as the silicon oxide film. Specifically, a silicon oxide film whose spin density attributed to a signal with a g factor of 2.001 in ESR is lower than or equal to 3×10^{17} spins/cm³, preferably lower than or equal to 5×10^{16} spins/cm³ is used. As the silicon oxide film, a silicon oxide film containing excess oxygen is preferably used. As the silicon nitride film, a silicon nitride film which releases a small amount of a hydrogen gas and a small amount of an ammonia gas is used. The amount of released hydrogen gas or ammonia gas may be measured by TDS.

The insulating film **112** may be a stack including an oxide semiconductor film. The description of the oxide semiconductor film **106** can be referred to for the oxide semiconductor film.

The conductive film **104** may be formed using a single layer or a stacked layer of a conductive film containing one or more of aluminum, titanium, chromium, cobalt, nickel, copper, yttrium, zirconium, molybdenum, ruthenium, silver, tantalum, and tungsten, for example.

For example, the insulating film **118** may be formed of a single layer or a stacked layer using an insulating film containing one or more of aluminum oxide, magnesium oxide, silicon oxide, silicon oxynitride, silicon nitride oxide, silicon nitride, gallium oxide, germanium oxide, yttrium oxide, zirconium oxide, lanthanum oxide, neodymium oxide, hafnium oxide, and tantalum oxide.

An insulating film having an oxygen-blocking property is preferably used as the insulating film **118**. An insulating film having a hydrogen-blocking property is preferably used as the insulating film **118**. An insulating film which releases a small amount of hydrogen is preferably used as the insulating film **118**.

There is no large limitation on the substrate **100**. For example, a glass substrate, a ceramic substrate, a quartz substrate, or a sapphire substrate may be used as the substrate **100**. Alternatively, a single crystal semiconductor substrate or a polycrystalline semiconductor substrate made of silicon, silicon carbide, or the like, a compound semiconductor substrate made of silicon germanium or the like, a silicon-on-insulator (SOI) substrate, or the like may be used as the substrate **100**. Still alternatively, any of these substrates further provided with a semiconductor element may be used as the substrate **100**.

Still alternatively, a flexible substrate may be used as the substrate **100**. As a method of providing a transistor over a flexible substrate, there is a method in which a transistor is formed over a non-flexible substrate, and then the transistor is separated and transferred to the substrate **100** which is a flexible substrate. In that case, a separation layer is preferably provided between the non-flexible substrate and the transistor.

The transistor illustrated in FIGS. **1A** to **1C** is surrounded by the insulating films having an oxygen-blocking property. Moreover, the insulating film **102** containing excess oxygen

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can be surrounded by the insulating film **101**, the insulating film **108**, and the oxide semiconductor film **106**. Therefore, even when oxygen vacancy is generated in the oxide semiconductor film **106**, the excess oxygen contained in the insulating film **102** can effectively reduce the oxygen vacancy. In the same manner, even when oxygen vacancy is generated in the oxide semiconductor film **106**, the excess oxygen contained in the insulating film **112** can effectively reduce the oxygen vacancy. That is, the transistor illustrated in FIGS. **1A** to **1C** has stable electrical characteristics. In addition, since an increase in off-state current due to oxygen vacancy can be inhibited, the off-state current of the transistor is low.

<Method for Manufacturing Transistor Structure (1)>

A method for manufacturing the transistor illustrated in FIGS. **1A** to **1C** is described below with reference to FIGS. **3A1** to **3C2** and FIGS. **4A1** to **4C2**. The method for manufacturing the transistor is described to correspond to the cross-sectional views of FIGS. **1B** and **1C**.

First, the substrate **100** is prepared. Then, the gate insulating film **101** is formed (see FIGS. **3A1** and **3A2**). The insulating film **101** may be formed using an insulating film selected from the insulating films given as examples of the insulating film **101**. The insulating film **101** can be formed by a sputtering method, a chemical vapor deposition (CVD) method, a molecular beam epitaxy (MBE) method, an atomic layer deposition (ALD) method, or a pulsed laser deposition (PLD) method.

Next, an insulating film to be the insulating film **102** is formed. Note that the insulating film to be the insulating film **102** may be formed using an insulating film selected from the insulating films given as examples of the insulating film **102**. The insulating film to be the insulating film **102** may be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method.

Then, an oxide semiconductor film to be the oxide semiconductor film **106** is formed. Note that the oxide semiconductor film to be the oxide semiconductor film **106** may be formed using an oxide semiconductor film selected from the oxide semiconductor films given as examples of the oxide semiconductor film **106**. The oxide semiconductor film to be the oxide semiconductor film **106** can be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method, for example.

Then, a mask is formed over the oxide semiconductor film to be the oxide semiconductor film **106**. Note that a resist and/or a hard mask may be used as the mask. The mask may be formed by a photolithography method or the like. The photolithography method can be performed using KrF excimer laser light, ArF excimer laser light, extreme ultraviolet (EUV) light, or the like. Immersion lithography, in which a space between a substrate and a projection lens is filled with liquid (e.g., water) and light exposure is performed, may be employed. An electron beam or an ion beam may be used instead of the irradiation light. Note that when an electron beam or an ion beam is used, a photomask is unnecessary.

Next, regions over which the mask is not provided in the insulating film to be the insulating film **102** and in the oxide semiconductor film to be the oxide semiconductor film **106** are etched to form the insulating film **102** and the oxide semiconductor film **106** (see FIGS. **3B1** and **3B2**).

Next, an insulating film **107** is formed (see FIGS. **3C1** and **3C2**). Note that the insulating film **107** is preferably formed to a thickness larger than the total thickness of the insulating film **102** and the oxide semiconductor film **106**. The insulating film **107** may be formed using an insulating film selected from the insulating films described as examples of the insulating film **108**. The insulating film **107** can be formed by a

sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method. The insulating film 107 is preferably formed using a sputtering method.

In the case where the insulating film 107 is formed by a sputtering method, a deposition gas containing oxygen is preferably used. With the deposition gas, oxygen can be added to the side surface of the insulating film 102 and the side surface and top surface of the oxide semiconductor film 106 at the time of forming the insulating film 107. The added oxygen serves as excess oxygen in the insulating film 102 and the oxide semiconductor film 106 and can be used to reduce oxygen vacancy in the oxide semiconductor film 106.

Next, the insulating film 107 is etched and planarized until the top surface of the oxide semiconductor film 106 is exposed, whereby the insulating film 108 is formed from the insulating film 107 (see FIGS. 4A1 and 4A2). As a way to etch and planarize the insulating film 107, a chemical mechanical polishing (CMP) method or the like may be used.

Note that in FIGS. 3C1 and 3C2, an insulating film to be the insulating film 108b and an insulating film to be the insulating film 108a may be formed as the insulating film 108. In this case, in FIGS. 4A1 and 4A2, the insulating film 107 is etched and planarized until the top surface of the oxide semiconductor film 106 is exposed, whereby the insulating film 108b and the insulating film 108a can be formed from the insulating film to be the insulating film 108b and the insulating film to be the insulating film 108a, respectively.

Next, a conductive film to be the conductive film 116a and the conductive film 116b is formed over the insulating film 108 and the oxide semiconductor film 106. Note that the conductive film to be the conductive film 116a and the conductive film 116b may be formed using a conductive film selected from the conductive films described as examples of the conductive film 116a and the conductive film 116b. The conductive film to be the conductive film 116a and the conductive film 116b may be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method.

Then, a mask is formed over the conductive film to be the conductive film 116a and the conductive film 116b. Note that a resist and/or a hard mask may be used as the mask. The mask may be formed by a photolithography method or the like. Next, regions over which the mask is not provided in the conductive film to be the conductive film 116a and the conductive film 116b are etched to form the conductive film 116a and the conductive film 116b (see FIGS. 4B1 and 4B2).

Next, the insulating film 112 is formed. Note that the insulating film 112 may be formed using an insulating film selected from the insulating films given as examples of the insulating film 112. The insulating film 112 can be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method.

Then, a conductive film to be the conductive film 104 is deposited. Note that the conductive film to be the conductive film 104 may be formed using a conductive film selected from the conductive films given as examples of the conductive film 104. The conductive film to be the conductive film 104 can be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method.

Next, a mask is formed over the conductive film to be the conductive film 104. Note that a resist and/or a hard mask may be used as the mask. The mask may be formed by a photolithography method or the like. Next, regions over which the mask is not provided in the conductive film to be the conductive film 104 are etched to form the conductive film 104.

Then, the insulating film 118 is formed. As a result, the transistor illustrated in FIGS. 1A to 1C can be manufactured

(see FIGS. 4C1 and 4C2). Note that the insulating film 118 may be formed using an insulating film selected from the insulating films described as examples of the insulating film 118. The insulating film 118 can be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method.

Accordingly, a transistor having stable electric characteristics can be provided. Furthermore, a transistor with small variation in electrical characteristics can be provided. A miniaturized transistor can be provided. A transistor with low off-state current can be provided. A transistor having high on-state current can be provided.

In addition, a semiconductor device including the transistor can be provided. A highly integrated semiconductor device can be provided. A semiconductor device with high productivity can be provided. A semiconductor device with higher yield can be provided.

<Transistor Structure (2)>

A transistor of one embodiment of the present invention is described with reference to FIGS. 5A to 5C.

FIG. 5A is a top view of the transistor. Here, some films are not illustrated for easy understanding.

FIG. 5B is a cross-sectional view taken along dashed dotted line B1-B2 in FIG. 5A. FIG. 5C is a cross-sectional view taken along dashed-dotted line B3-B4 in FIG. 5A.

The transistor illustrated in FIGS. 5A to 5C includes an insulating film 202 over a substrate 200; an oxide semiconductor film 206 over the insulating film 202; and insulating film 208 in contact with part of the top surface of the insulating film 202, the side surface of the insulating film 202, and the side surface of the oxide semiconductor film 206. Note that the top surface of the oxide semiconductor film 206 is positioned at substantially the same level as the top surface of the insulating film 208. Furthermore, the transistor in FIGS. 5A to 5C includes a conductive film 216a and a conductive film 216b that are over and in contact with at least the oxide semiconductor film 206 to be apart from each other; an insulating film 212 over the oxide semiconductor film 206, the conductive film 216a, and the conductive film 216b; a conductive film 204 over the insulating film 212; and an insulating film 218 over the insulating film 212 and the conductive film 204. Note that the transistor does not necessarily include all of the conductive film 216a, the conductive film 216b, and the insulating film 218.

In the transistor in FIGS. 5A to 5C, the conductive film 216a and the conductive film 216b function as a source electrode and a drain electrode. The insulating film 212 functions as a gate insulating film. The conductive film 204 functions as a gate electrode.

Note that although the side surface of each film included in the transistor in FIGS. 5A to 5C has a steep angle, one embodiment of the present invention is not limited to this shape. For example, the side surface of each film may have a tapered angle. In addition, although the top edge of each of the conductive film 216a, the conductive film 216b, the insulating film 212, the conductive film 204, and the insulating film 218 has a curvature, one embodiment of the present invention is not limited to this shape.

Although the insulating film 212 is provided over the oxide semiconductor film 206, the insulating film 208, the conductive film 216a, and the conductive film 216b in the cross-sectional view of the transistor in FIG. 5B, one embodiment of the present invention is not limited to this shape. For example, the insulating film 212 may be provided only in a region which overlaps the conductive film 204 in the top view of the transistor in FIG. 5A.

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An sidewall insulating film may be provided in contact with the side surface of the conductive film **204**. In the case where the sidewall insulating film is provided, the insulating film **212** may be provided only in a region which overlaps the conductive film **204** and the sidewall insulating film in the top view. Description of another insulating film is referred to for the sidewall insulating film.

The description of the insulating film **102** can be referred to for the insulating film **202**. An insulating film containing excess oxygen is used as the insulating film **202**.

The description of the oxide semiconductor film **106** can be referred to for the oxide semiconductor film **206**.

For the insulating film **208**, the description of the insulating film **108** is referred to. An insulating film having an oxygen-blocking property is used as the insulating film **208**. As the insulating film **208**, an insulating film containing excess oxygen is preferably used. An insulating film having a hydrogen-blocking property is preferably used as the insulating film **208**. An insulating film which releases a small amount of hydrogen is preferably used as the insulating film **208**.

Note that the insulating film **208** may be similar to the insulating film **108** including the insulating film **108a** and the insulating film **108b** illustrated in FIGS. **2A** to **2C**.

The description of the conductive film **116a** and the conductive film **116b** is referred to for the conductive film **216a** and the conductive film **216b**.

For the insulating film **212**, the description of the insulating film **112** is referred to. As the insulating film **212**, an insulating film containing excess oxygen is preferably used.

The description of the conductive film **104** is referred to for the conductive film **204**.

For the insulating film **218**, the description of the insulating film **218** is referred to. The insulating film **218** is preferably an insulating film having an oxygen-blocking property. An insulating film having a hydrogen-blocking property is preferably used as the insulating film **218**. An insulating film which releases a small amount of hydrogen is preferably used as the insulating film **218**.

For the substrate **200**, the description of the substrate **100** is referred to.

The transistor illustrated in FIGS. **5A** to **5C** is surrounded by the insulating films having an oxygen-blocking property. For example, the insulating film **202** containing excess oxygen can be covered with the insulating film **208** and the oxide semiconductor film **206**. Therefore, even when oxygen vacancy is generated in the oxide semiconductor film **206**, the excess oxygen contained in the insulating film **202** can effectively reduce the oxygen vacancy. In the same manner, even when oxygen vacancy is generated in the oxide semiconductor film **206**, the excess oxygen contained in the insulating film **212** can effectively reduce the oxygen vacancy. That is, the transistor illustrated in FIGS. **5A** to **5C** has stable electrical characteristics. In addition, since an increase in off-state current due to oxygen vacancy can be inhibited, the off-state current of the transistor is low.

<Method for Manufacturing Transistor Structure (2)>

A method for manufacturing the transistor illustrated in FIGS. **5A** to **5C** is described below with reference to FIGS. **6A1** to **6C2**. The method for manufacturing the transistor is described to correspond to the cross-sectional views of FIGS. **5B** and **5C**.

First, the substrate **200** is prepared. Next, an insulating film **232** to be the insulating film **202** is formed. Note that the insulating film **232** may be formed using an insulating film selected from the insulating films described as examples of the insulating film **202**. The insulating film **232** may be

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formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method.

Next, an oxide semiconductor film **236** to be the oxide semiconductor film **206** is formed (see FIGS. **6A1** and **6A2**). Note that the oxide semiconductor film **236** may be formed using an oxide semiconductor film selected from the oxide semiconductor films given as examples of the oxide semiconductor film **236**. The oxide semiconductor film **236** can be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method.

Then, a mask is formed over the oxide semiconductor film to be the oxide semiconductor film **206**. Note that a resist and/or a hard mask may be used as the mask. The mask may be formed by a photolithography method or the like.

Next, regions over which the mask is not provided in the insulating film **232** and in the oxide semiconductor film **236** are etched to form the insulating film **202** and the oxide semiconductor film **206** (see FIGS. **6B1** and **6B2**).

Next, an insulating film to be the insulating film **208** is formed. Note that the insulating film to be the insulating film **208** is preferably formed to a thickness larger than the total thickness of the insulating film **202** and the oxide semiconductor film **206**. The insulating film to be the insulating film **208** may be formed using an insulating film selected from the insulating films described as examples of the insulating film **208**. The insulating film to be the insulating film **208** may be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method. The insulating film to be the insulating film **208** is preferably formed using a sputtering method.

In the case where the insulating film to be the insulating film **208** is formed by a sputtering method, a deposition gas containing oxygen is preferably used. With the deposition gas, oxygen can be added to part of the top surface of the insulating film **202**, the side surface of the insulating film **202**, and the side surface and top surface of the oxide semiconductor film **206** at the time of forming the insulating film to be the insulating film **208**. The added oxygen serves as excess oxygen in the insulating film **202** and the oxide semiconductor film **206** and can be used to reduce oxygen vacancy in the oxide semiconductor film **206**.

Next, the insulating film to be the insulating film **208** is etched and planarized until the top surface of the oxide semiconductor film **206** is exposed, whereby the insulating film **208** is formed from the insulating film to be the insulating film **208**. As a way to etch and planarize the insulating film to be the insulating film **208**, a CMP method or the like may be used.

Next, a conductive film to be the conductive film **216a** and the conductive film **216b** is formed. Note that the conductive film to be the conductive film **216a** and the conductive film **216b** may be formed using a conductive film selected from the conductive films described as examples of the conductive film **116a** and the conductive film **116b**. The conductive film to be the conductive film **216a** and the conductive film **216b** may be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method.

Then, a mask is formed over the conductive film to be the conductive film **216a** and the conductive film **216b**. Note that a resist and/or a hard mask may be used as the mask. The mask may be formed by a photolithography method or the like. Next, regions over which the mask is not provided in the conductive film to be the conductive film **216a** and the conductive film **216b** are etched to form the conductive film **216a** and the conductive film **216b**.

Next, the insulating film **212** is formed. Note that the insulating film **212** may be formed using an insulating film

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selected from the insulating films given as examples of the insulating film **212**. The insulating film **212** can be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method.

Then, a conductive film to be the conductive film **204** is deposited. Note that the conductive film to be the conductive film **204** may be formed using a conductive film selected from the conductive films given as examples of the conductive film **204**. The conductive film to be the conductive film **204** can be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method.

Next, a mask is formed over the conductive film to be the conductive film **204**. Note that a resist and/or a hard mask may be used as the mask. The mask may be formed by a photolithography method or the like. Next, regions over which the mask is not provided in the conductive film to be the conductive film **204** are etched to form the conductive film **204**.

Then, the insulating film **218** is formed. As a result, the transistor illustrated in FIGS. **5A** to **5C** can be manufactured (see FIGS. **6C1** and **6C2**). Note that the insulating film **218** may be formed using an insulating film selected from the insulating films described as examples of the insulating film **218**. The insulating film **218** can be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method.

Accordingly, a transistor having stable electric characteristics can be provided. Furthermore, a transistor with small variation in electrical characteristics can be provided. A miniaturized transistor can be provided. A transistor with low off-state current can be provided. A transistor having high on-state current can be provided.

In addition, a semiconductor device including the transistor can be provided. A highly integrated semiconductor device can be provided. A semiconductor device with high productivity can be provided. A semiconductor device with high yield can be provided.

<Transistor Structure (3)>

A transistor of one embodiment of the present invention is described with reference to FIGS. **7A** to **7C**.

FIG. **7A** is a top view of the transistor. Here, some films are not illustrated for easy understanding.

FIG. **7B** is a cross-sectional view taken along dashed dotted line C1-C2 in FIG. **7A**. FIG. **7C** is a cross-sectional view taken along dashed-dotted line C3-C4 in FIG. **7A**.

The transistor in FIGS. **7A** to **7C** includes an insulating film **301** over a substrate **300**; an insulating film **302** over the insulating film **301**; an oxide semiconductor film **306** over the insulating film **302**; and an insulating film **308** that is provided over the insulating film **301** and in contact with the side surface of the insulating film **302** and the side surface of the oxide semiconductor film **306**. Note that the top surface of the insulating film **308** is positioned at a higher level than the top surface of the oxide semiconductor film **306**. Furthermore, the transistor in FIGS. **7A** to **7C** includes a conductive film **316a** and a conductive film **316b** that are over and in contact with at least the oxide semiconductor film **306** to be apart from each other; an insulating film **312** over the oxide semiconductor film **306**, the conductive film **316a**, and the conductive film **316b**; a conductive film **304** over the insulating film **312**; and an insulating film **318** over the insulating film **312** and the conductive film **304**. Note that the transistor does not necessarily include all of the insulating film **301**, the conductive film **316a**, the conductive film **316b**, and the insulating film **318**.

Note that the transistor illustrated in FIGS. **7A** to **7C** may have a structure in which the insulating film **301** is not provided and the insulating film **302** is in contact with the bottom

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surface of the insulating film **308**, in a manner similar to that of the transistor illustrated in FIGS. **5A** to **5C**.

In the transistor in FIGS. **7A** to **7C**, the conductive film **316a** and the conductive film **316b** function as a source electrode and a drain electrode. The insulating film **312** functions as a gate insulating film. The conductive film **304** functions as a gate electrode.

Note that although the side surface of each film included in the transistor in FIGS. **7A** to **7C** has a steep angle, one embodiment of the present invention is not limited to this shape. For example, the side surface of each film may have a tapered angle. In addition, although the top edge of each of the conductive film **316a**, the conductive film **316b**, the insulating film **312**, the conductive film **304**, and the insulating film **318** has a curvature, one embodiment of the present invention is not limited to this shape.

Although the insulating film **312** is provided over the oxide semiconductor film **306**, the insulating film **308**, the conductive film **316a**, and the conductive film **316b** in the cross-sectional view of the transistor in FIG. **7B**, one embodiment of the present invention is not limited to this shape. For example, the insulating film **312** may be provided only in a region which overlaps the conductive film **304** in the top view of the transistor in FIG. **7A**.

An sidewall insulating film may be provided in contact with the side surface of the conductive film **304**. In the case where the sidewall insulating film is provided, the insulating film **312** may be provided only in a region which overlaps the conductive film **304** and the sidewall insulating film in the top view. Description of another insulating film is referred to for the sidewall insulating film.

For the insulating film **301**, the description of the insulating film **101** is referred to. It is preferable to use an insulating film having an oxygen-blocking property as the insulating film **301**. An example of the insulating film having an oxygen-blocking property is an insulating film having a small diffusion coefficient of oxygen.

The description of the insulating film **102** can be referred to for the insulating film **302**. Further, an insulating film containing excess oxygen is used as the insulating film **302**. An insulating film containing excess oxygen refers to an insulating film from which oxygen is released by heat treatment.

The description of the oxide semiconductor film **106** can be referred to for the oxide semiconductor film **306**.

For the insulating film **308**, the description of the insulating film **108** is referred to. An insulating film having an oxygen-blocking property is used as the insulating film **308**. As the insulating film **308**, an insulating film containing excess oxygen is preferably used. An insulating film having a hydrogen-blocking property is preferably used as the insulating film **308**. An insulating film which releases a small amount of hydrogen is preferably used as the insulating film **308**.

Note that the insulating film **308** may be similar to the insulating film **108** including the insulating film **108a** and the insulating film **108b** illustrated in FIGS. **2A** to **2C**.

The description of the conductive film **116a** and the conductive film **116b** is referred to for the conductive film **316a** and the conductive film **316b**.

The description of the insulating film **112** can be referred to for the insulating film **312**. As the insulating film **312**, an insulating film containing excess oxygen is preferably used.

The description of the conductive film **104** is referred to for the conductive film **304**.

For the insulating film **318**, the description of the insulating film **118** is referred to. The insulating film **318** is preferably an insulating film having an oxygen-blocking property. An insulating film having a hydrogen-blocking property is preferably

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used as the insulating film **318**. An insulating film which releases a small amount of hydrogen is preferably used as the insulating film **318**.

For the substrate **300**, the description of the substrate **100** is referred to.

The transistor illustrated in FIGS. **7A** to **7C** is surrounded by the insulating films having an oxygen-blocking property. For example, the insulating film **302** containing excess oxygen can be surrounded by the insulating film **301**, the insulating film **308**, and the oxide semiconductor film **306**. Therefore, even when oxygen vacancy is generated in the oxide semiconductor film **306**, the excess oxygen contained in the insulating film **302** can effectively reduce the oxygen vacancy. In the same manner, even when oxygen vacancy is generated in the oxide semiconductor film **306**, the excess oxygen contained in the insulating film **312** can effectively reduce the oxygen vacancy. That is, the transistor illustrated in FIGS. **7A** to **7C** has stable electrical characteristics. In addition, since an increase in off-state current due to oxygen vacancy can be inhibited, the off-state current of the transistor is low.

<Method for Manufacturing Transistor Structure (3)>

A method for manufacturing the transistor illustrated in FIGS. **7A** to **7C** is described below with reference to FIGS. **8A1** to **8C2** and FIGS. **9A1** to **9B2**. The method for manufacturing the transistor is described to correspond to the cross-sectional views of FIGS. **7B** and **7C**.

First, the substrate **300** is prepared. Next, the insulating film **301** is formed. Note that the insulating film **301** may be formed using an insulating film selected from the insulating films described as examples of the insulating film **301**. The insulating film **301** may be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method.

Next, an insulating film **332** to be the insulating film **302** is formed. Note that the insulating film **332** may be formed using an insulating film selected from the insulating films given as examples of the insulating film **302**. The insulating film to be the insulating film **302** can be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method.

Next, an oxide semiconductor film **336** to be the oxide semiconductor film **306** is formed. Note that the oxide semiconductor film **336** may be formed using an oxide semiconductor film selected from the oxide semiconductor films given as examples of the insulating film **306**. The oxide semiconductor film to be the oxide semiconductor film **306** can be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method, for example.

Next, a hard mask **340** is formed over the oxide semiconductor film **336**. The hard mask **340** is formed using a substance which is etched to an extent similar to that of the insulating film **308** formed later or is not easily etched as compared to the insulating film **308** by a CMP method. Furthermore, the hard mask **340** is formed using a substance which can be used as a mask at the time of etching the insulating film **332** and the oxide semiconductor film **336**.

Then, a mask **350** is formed over the hard mask **340** (see FIGS. **8A1** and **8A2**). Note that a resist may be used for the mask **350**. The mask **350** may be formed by a photolithography method or the like.

Then, a region over which the mask **350** is not provided in the hard mask **340** is etched to form a hard mask **310**.

Next, regions over which the hard mask **310** is not provided in the insulating film **302** and in the oxide semiconductor film **336** are etched to form the insulating film **302** and the oxide semiconductor film **306** (see FIGS. **8B1** and **8B2**).

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Next, an insulating film to be the insulating film **308** is formed. Note that the insulating film to be the insulating film **308** is preferably formed to a thickness larger than the total thickness of the insulating film **302**, the oxide semiconductor film **306**, and the hard mask **310**. The insulating film to be the insulating film **308** may be formed using an insulating film selected from the insulating films described as examples of the insulating film **308**. The insulating film to be the insulating film **308** may be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method. The insulating film to be the insulating film **308** is preferably formed using a sputtering method.

In the case where the insulating film to be the insulating film **308** is formed by a sputtering method, a deposition gas containing oxygen is preferably used. With the deposition gas, oxygen can be added to the side surface of the insulating film **302**, and the side surface and top surface of the oxide semiconductor film **306** at the time of forming the insulating film to be the insulating film **308**. The added oxygen serves as excess oxygen in the insulating film **302** and the oxide semiconductor film **306** and can be used to reduce oxygen vacancy in the oxide semiconductor film **306**.

Next, the insulating film to be the insulating film **308** is etched and planarized until the top surface of the hard mask **310** is exposed, whereby the insulating film **308** is formed from the insulating film to be the insulating film **308** (see FIGS. **8C1** and **8C2**). The hard mask **310** functions as an etching stopper; therefore, the insulating film to be the insulating film **308** can be prevented from being etched excessively and the oxide semiconductor film **306** can be prevented from being thinned or from disappearing. Accordingly, the transistors with small variation in the plane of the substrate can be manufactured. Furthermore, the transistors with high yield can be manufactured. Therefore, the etching rate can be increased while the insulating film to be the insulating film **308** is planarized, so that productivity of the transistors can be increased. As a way to etch and planarize the insulating film to be the insulating film **308**, a CMP method or the like may be used.

Next, the hard mask **310** is removed (see FIGS. **9A1** and **9A2**). As a result of such a process, the top surface of the insulating film **308** is positioned at a higher level than the top surface of the oxide semiconductor film **306**. Furthermore, the hard mask **310** can reduce damage to the oxide semiconductor film **306** at the time of etching and planarizing the insulating film to be the insulating film **308**. Thus, the transistor having stable electrical characteristics is easily obtained.

Next, a conductive film to be the conductive film **316a** and the conductive film **316b** is formed. Note that the conductive film to be the conductive film **316a** and the conductive film **316b** may be formed using a conductive film selected from the conductive films described as examples of the conductive film **116a** and the conductive film **116b**. The conductive film to be the conductive film **316a** and the conductive film **316b** may be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method.

Then, a mask is formed over the conductive film to be the conductive film **316a** and the conductive film **316b**. Note that a resist and/or a hard mask may be used as the mask. The mask may be formed by a photolithography method or the like. Next, regions over which the mask is not provided in the conductive film to be the conductive film **316a** and the conductive film **316b** are etched to form the conductive film **316a** and the conductive film **316b**.

Next, the insulating film **312** is formed. Note that the insulating film **312** may be formed using an insulating film

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selected from the insulating films given as examples of the insulating film 312. The insulating film 312 can be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method.

Then, a conductive film to be the conductive film 304 is deposited. Note that the conductive film to be the conductive film 304 may be formed using a conductive film selected from the conductive films given as examples of the conductive film 304. The conductive film to be the conductive film 304 can be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method.

Next, a mask is formed over the conductive film to be the conductive film 304. Note that a resist and/or a hard mask may be used as the mask. The mask may be formed by a photolithography method or the like. Next, regions over which the mask is not provided in the conductive film to be the conductive film 304 are etched to form the conductive film 304.

Then, the insulating film 318 is formed. As a result, the transistor illustrated in FIGS. 7A to 7C can be manufactured (see FIGS. 9B1 and 9B2). Note that the insulating film 318 may be formed using an insulating film selected from the insulating films described as examples of the insulating film 318. The insulating film 318 can be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method.

Accordingly, a transistor having stable electric characteristics can be provided. Furthermore, a transistor with small variation in electrical characteristics can be provided. A miniaturized transistor can be provided. A transistor with low off-state current can be provided. A transistor having high on-state current can be provided.

In addition, a semiconductor device including the transistor can be provided. A highly integrated semiconductor device can be provided. A semiconductor device with high productivity can be provided. A semiconductor device with higher yield can be provided.

<Transistor Structure (4)>

A transistor of one embodiment of the present invention is described with reference to FIGS. 10A to 10C and FIGS. 11A to 11C.

FIG. 10A is a top view of the transistor. Here, some films are not illustrated for easy understanding.

FIG. 10B is a cross-sectional view taken along dashed dotted line D1-D2 in FIG. 10A. FIG. 10C is a cross-sectional view taken along dashed-dotted line D3-D4 in FIG. 10A.

The transistor in FIGS. 10A to 10C includes an insulating film 401 over a substrate 400; an insulating film 402 over the insulating film 401; an oxide semiconductor film 406 over the insulating film 402; and an insulating film 408 that is provided over the insulating film 401 and in contact with the side surface of the insulating film 402 and the side surface of the oxide semiconductor film 406. Note that the top surface of the insulating film 408 is positioned at a higher level than the top surface of the oxide semiconductor film 406. Moreover, the transistor illustrated in FIGS. 10A to 10C includes a conductive film 416a and a conductive film 416b which are over and in contact with at least the oxide semiconductor film 406 and apart from each other and whose top surfaces are positioned at the same level as the top surface of the insulating film 408; an insulating film 412 over the oxide semiconductor film 406, the conductive film 416a, and the conductive film 416b; a conductive film 404 over the insulating film 412; and an insulating film 418 over the insulating film 412 and the conductive film 404. Note that the transistor does not necessarily include all of the insulating film 401, the conductive film 416a, the conductive film 416b, and the insulating film 418.

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In the top view of the transistor in FIG. 10A, the region where the conductive film 416a and the conductive film 416b are provided can be positioned on the inside of the region where the oxide semiconductor film 406 is provided. Therefore, the area of the transistor in the top view can be smaller than those of the transistors in the top views of FIGS. 1A to 1C, FIGS. 2A to 2C, FIGS. 5A to 5C, and FIGS. 7A to 7C. Therefore, the transistor having a reduced size can be obtained.

Note that the transistor illustrated in FIGS. 10A to 10C may have a structure in which the insulating film 401 is not provided and the insulating film 402 is in contact with the bottom surface of the insulating film 408, in a manner similar to that of the transistor illustrated in FIGS. 5A to 5C.

In the transistor in FIGS. 10A to 10C, the conductive film 416a and the conductive film 416b function as a source electrode and a drain electrode. The insulating film 412 functions as a gate insulating film. The conductive film 404 functions as a gate electrode.

Note that although the side surface of each film included in the transistor in FIGS. 10A to 10C has a steep angle, one embodiment of the present invention is not limited to this shape. For example, the side surface of each film may have a tapered angle. In addition, although the top edge of each of the conductive film 416a, the conductive film 416b, the insulating film 412, the conductive film 404, and the insulating film 418 has a curvature, one embodiment of the present invention is not limited to this shape.

Although the insulating film 412 is provided over the oxide semiconductor film 406, the insulating film 408, the conductive film 416a, and the conductive film 416b in the cross-sectional view of the transistor in FIG. 10B, one embodiment of the present invention is not limited to this shape. For example, the insulating film 412 may be provided only in a region which overlaps the conductive film 404 in the top view of the transistor in FIG. 10A.

An sidewall insulating film may be provided in contact with the side surface of the conductive film 404. In the case where the sidewall insulating film is provided, the insulating film 412 may be provided only in a region which overlaps the conductive film 404 and the sidewall insulating film in the top view. Description of another insulating film is referred to for the sidewall insulating film.

For the insulating film 401, the description of the insulating film 101 is referred to. It is preferable to use an insulating film having an oxygen-blocking property as the insulating film 401. An example of the insulating film having an oxygen-blocking property is an insulating film having a small diffusion coefficient of oxygen.

The description of the insulating film 102 can be referred to for the insulating film 402. Further, an insulating film containing excess oxygen is used as the insulating film 402. An insulating film containing excess oxygen refers to an insulating film from which oxygen is released by heat treatment.

The description of the oxide semiconductor film 106 can be referred to for the oxide semiconductor film 406.

For the insulating film 408, the description of the insulating film 108 is referred to. An insulating film having an oxygen-blocking property is used as the insulating film 408. As the insulating film 408, an insulating film containing excess oxygen is preferably used. An insulating film having a hydrogen-blocking property is preferably used as the insulating film 408. An insulating film which releases a small amount of hydrogen is preferably used as the insulating film 408.

Note that the insulating film 408 may be similar to the insulating film 108 including the insulating film 108a and the insulating film 108b illustrated in FIGS. 2A to 2C.

The description of the conductive film **116a** and the conductive film **116b** is referred to for the conductive film **416a** and the conductive film **416b**.

The description of the insulating film **112** can be referred to for the insulating film **412**. As the insulating film **412**, an insulating film containing excess oxygen is preferably used.

The description of the conductive film **104** is referred to for the conductive film **404**.

For the insulating film **418**, the description of the insulating film **118** is referred to. The insulating film **418** is preferably an insulating film having an oxygen-blocking property. An insulating film having a hydrogen-blocking property is preferably used as the insulating film **418**. An insulating film which releases a small amount of hydrogen is preferably used as the insulating film **418**.

For the substrate **400**, the description of the substrate **100** is referred to.

Note that in the case where the conductive film functioning as a gate electrode is provided with a sidewall insulating film, the transistor in FIGS. **10A** to **10C** can be further reduced in size. An example of a transistor obtained by reduction of the size of the transistor illustrated in FIGS. **10A** to **10C** is described below with reference to FIGS. **11A** to **11C**.

FIG. **11A** is a top view of the transistor. Here, some films are not illustrated for easy understanding.

FIG. **11B** is a cross-sectional view taken along dashed dotted line D1-D2 in FIG. **11A**. FIG. **11C** is a cross-sectional view taken along dashed-dotted line D3-D4 in FIG. **11A**.

The transistor in FIGS. **11A** to **11C** includes the insulating film **401** over the substrate **400**; an insulating film **403** over the insulating film **401**; an oxide semiconductor film **407** over the insulating film **403**; and an insulating film **409** that is provided over the insulating film **401** and in contact with the side surface of the insulating film **403** and the side surface of the oxide semiconductor film **407**. Note that the top surface of the insulating film **409** is positioned at a higher level than the top surface of the oxide semiconductor film **407**. Moreover, the transistor illustrated in FIGS. **11A** to **11C** includes a conductive film **417a** and a conductive film **417b** which are over and in contact with at least the oxide semiconductor film **407** and apart from each other and whose top surfaces are positioned at the same level as the top surface of the insulating film **409**; an insulating film **413** over the oxide semiconductor film **407**, the conductive film **417a**, and the conductive film **417b**; a conductive film **405** over the insulating film **413**; an insulating film **411** in contact with the side surface of the conductive film **405**; an insulating film **419** over the insulating film **413**, the conductive film **405**, and the insulating film **411**; and a conductive film **423a** and a conductive film **423b** which are connected to the conductive film **417a** and the conductive film **417b**, respectively, through openings in the insulating film **419**. Note that the transistor does not necessarily include all of the insulating film **401**, the conductive film **417a**, and the conductive film **417b**.

Note that the insulating film **403** is the same as the insulating film **402** except for the shape; therefore, description thereof is omitted. Note that the oxide semiconductor film **407** is the same as the oxide semiconductor film **406** except for the shape; therefore, description thereof is omitted. Note that the insulating film **409** is the same as the insulating film **408** except for the shape; therefore, description thereof is omitted. Note that the conductive film **417a** and the conductive film **417b** are the same as the conductive film **416a** and the conductive film **416b** except for the shape; therefore, description thereof is omitted. Note that the insulating film **413** is the same as the insulating film **412** except for the shape; therefore, description thereof is omitted. Note that the con-

ductive film **405** is the same as the conductive film **404** except for the shape; therefore, description thereof is omitted.

The insulating film **419** functions as an interlayer insulating film. The insulating film **411** functions as a sidewall insulating film of the conductive film **405**. The conductive film **423a** and the conductive film **423b** function as wirings.

For example, the insulating film **419** may be formed of a single layer or a stacked layer using an insulating film containing one or more of aluminum oxide, magnesium oxide, silicon oxide, silicon oxynitride, silicon nitride oxide, silicon nitride, gallium oxide, germanium oxide, yttrium oxide, zirconium oxide, lanthanum oxide, neodymium oxide, hafnium oxide, and tantalum oxide.

For example, the insulating film **411** may be formed of a single layer or a stacked layer using an insulating film containing one or more of aluminum oxide, magnesium oxide, silicon oxide, silicon oxynitride, silicon nitride oxide, silicon nitride, gallium oxide, germanium oxide, yttrium oxide, zirconium oxide, lanthanum oxide, neodymium oxide, hafnium oxide, and tantalum oxide.

For example, the conductive film **423a** and the conductive film **423b** may be formed using a single layer or a stacked layer of a conductive film containing one or more of aluminum, titanium, chromium, cobalt, nickel, copper, yttrium, zirconium, molybdenum, ruthenium, silver, tantalum, and tungsten, for example.

The transistor in FIGS. **11A** to **11C** has a structure in which the insulating film **411** prevents the conductive film **405** from being in contact with the conductive film **423a** and the conductive film **423b**. Therefore, the conductive film **405** can be provided to be close to the conductive film **423a** and the conductive film **423b**; thus, the structure in FIGS. **11A** to **11C** is more suitable for reducing the size than the structure in FIGS. **10A** to **10C**.

The transistor illustrated in FIGS. **10A** to **10C** is surrounded by the insulating films having an oxygen-blocking property. For example, the insulating film **402** containing excess oxygen can be surrounded by the insulating film **401**, the insulating film **408**, and the oxide semiconductor film **406**. Therefore, even when oxygen vacancy is generated in the oxide semiconductor film **406**, the excess oxygen contained in the insulating film **402** can effectively reduce the oxygen vacancy. In the same manner, even when oxygen vacancy is generated in the oxide semiconductor film **406**, the excess oxygen contained in the insulating film **412** can effectively reduce the oxygen vacancy. That is, the transistor illustrated in FIGS. **10A** to **10C** has stable electrical characteristics. In addition, since an increase in off-state current due to oxygen vacancy can be inhibited, the off-state current of the transistor is low.

<Method for Manufacturing Transistor Structure (4)>

A method for manufacturing the transistor illustrated in FIGS. **10A** to **10C** is described below with reference to FIGS. **12A1** to **12C2** and FIGS. **13A1** to **13B2**. The method for manufacturing the transistor is described to correspond to the cross-sectional views of FIGS. **10B** and **10C**.

First, the substrate **400** is prepared. Next, the insulating film **401** is formed. Note that the insulating film **401** may be formed using an insulating film selected from the insulating films described as examples of the insulating film **401**. The insulating film **401** may be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method.

Next, an insulating film **432** to be the insulating film **402** is formed. Note that the insulating film **432** may be formed using an insulating film selected from the insulating films given as examples of the insulating film **402**. The insulating

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film to be the insulating film **402** can be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method.

Then, an oxide semiconductor film **436** to be the oxide semiconductor film **406** is deposited. Note that the oxide semiconductor film **436** may be formed using an oxide semiconductor film selected from the oxide semiconductor films given as examples of the oxide semiconductor film **406**. The oxide semiconductor film to be the oxide semiconductor film **406** can be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method.

Next, a hard mask **440** is formed over the oxide semiconductor film **436**. The hard mask **440** is formed using a conductive film which is etched to an extent similar to that of the insulating film **408** formed later or is not easily etched as compared to the insulating film **408** by a CMP method. Furthermore, the hard mask **440** is formed using a conductive film which can be used as a mask at the time of etching the insulating film **432** and the oxide semiconductor film **436**.

Then, a mask **450** is formed over the hard mask **440** (see FIGS. **12A1** and **12A2**). Note that a resist may be used for the mask **450**. The mask **450** may be formed by a photolithography method or the like.

Then, a region over which the mask **450** is not provided in the hard mask **440** is etched to form a hard mask **410**.

Next, regions over which the hard mask **410** is not provided in the insulating film **402** and in the oxide semiconductor film **436** are etched to form the insulating film **402** and the oxide semiconductor film **406** (see FIGS. **12B1** and **12B2**).

Next, an insulating film to be the insulating film **408** is formed. Note that the insulating film to be the insulating film **408** is preferably formed to a thickness larger than the total thickness of the insulating film **402**, the oxide semiconductor film **406**, and the hard mask **410**. The insulating film to be the insulating film **408** may be formed using an insulating film selected from the insulating films described as examples of the insulating film **408**. The insulating film to be the insulating film **408** may be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method. The insulating film to be the insulating film **408** is preferably formed using a sputtering method.

In the case where the insulating film to be the insulating film **408** is formed by a sputtering method, a deposition gas containing oxygen is preferably used. With the deposition gas, oxygen can be added to the side surface of the insulating film **402**, and the side surface and top surface of the oxide semiconductor film **406** at the time of forming the insulating film to be the insulating film **408**. The added oxygen serves as excess oxygen in the insulating film **402** and the oxide semiconductor film **406** and can be used to reduce oxygen vacancy in the oxide semiconductor film **406**.

Next, the insulating film to be the insulating film **408** is etched and planarized until the top surface of the hard mask **410** is exposed, whereby the insulating film **408** is formed from the insulating film to be the insulating film **408** (see FIGS. **12C1** and **12C2**). The hard mask **410** functions as an etching stopper; therefore, the insulating film to be the insulating film **408** can be prevented from being etched excessively and the oxide semiconductor film **406** can be prevented from being thinned or from disappearing. Accordingly, the transistors with small variation in the plane of the substrate can be manufactured. Furthermore, the transistors with high yield can be manufactured. Therefore, the etching rate can be increased while the insulating film to be the insulating film **408** is planarized, so that productivity of the transistors can be

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increased. As a way to etch and planarize the insulating film to be the insulating film **408**, a CMP method or the like may be used.

Then, a mask is formed over the hard mask **410**. Note that a resist and/or a hard mask may be used as the mask. The mask may be formed by a photolithography method. Next, a region over which the mask is not provided in the hard mask **410** is etched to form the conductive film **416a** and the conductive film **416b** (see FIGS. **13A1** and **13A2**).

As a result of such a process, the top surface of the insulating film **408** is positioned at the same level as the top surfaces of the conductive film **416a** and the conductive film **416b**. Furthermore, in the top view, the region where the conductive film **416a** and the conductive film **416b** are provided can be positioned on the inside of the region where the oxide semiconductor film **406** is provided. Therefore, the area of the transistor in the top view can be smaller than those of the transistors in the top views of FIGS. **1A** to **1C**, FIGS. **2A** to **2C**, FIGS. **5A** to **5C**, and FIGS. **7A** to **7C**. Therefore, the transistor having a reduced size can be obtained. Since the conductive film **416a** and the conductive film **416b** are formed by processing the hard mask **410**, the process can be shortened as compared to a case where the conductive film **416a** and the conductive film **416b** are formed after the hard mask **410** is removed. Therefore, the productivity of the transistor can be increased. Furthermore, the hard mask **410** can inhibit damage to the oxide semiconductor film **406** at the time of etching and planarizing the insulating film to be the insulating film **408**. Therefore, the transistor having stable electrical characteristics can be easily obtained.

Then, the insulating film **412** is formed. Note that the insulating film **412** may be formed using an insulating film selected from the insulating films described as examples of the insulating film **412**. The insulating film **412** may be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method.

Next, a conductive film to be the conductive film **404** is formed. Note that the conductive film to be the conductive film **404** may be formed using a conductive film selected from the conductive films described as examples of the conductive film **404**. The conductive film to be the conductive film **404** may be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method.

Then, a mask is formed over the conductive film to be the conductive film **404**. Note that a resist and/or a hard mask may be used as the mask. The mask may be formed by a photolithography method or the like. Next, regions over which the mask is not provided in the conductive film to be the conductive film **404** are etched to form the conductive film **404**.

Then, the insulating film **418** is formed. As a result, the transistor illustrated in FIGS. **10A** to **10C** can be manufactured (see FIGS. **13B1** and **13B2**). Note that the insulating film **418** may be formed using an insulating film selected from the insulating films described as examples of the insulating film **418**. The insulating film **418** can be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method.

Accordingly, a transistor having stable electric characteristics can be provided. Furthermore, a transistor with small variation in electrical characteristics can be provided. A miniaturized transistor can be provided. A transistor with low off-state current can be provided. A transistor having high on-state current can be provided.

In addition, a semiconductor device including the transistor can be provided. A highly integrated semiconductor

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device can be provided. A semiconductor device with high productivity can be provided. A semiconductor device with higher yield can be provided.

<Transistor Structure (5)>

A transistor of one embodiment of the present invention is described with reference to FIGS. 14A to 14C.

FIG. 14A is a top view of the transistor. Here, some films are not illustrated for easy understanding.

FIG. 14B is a cross-sectional view taken along dashed dotted line E1-E2 in FIG. 14A. FIG. 14C is a cross-sectional view taken along dashed-dotted line E3-E4 in FIG. 14A.

The transistor illustrated in FIGS. 14A to 14C includes an insulating film 501 over a substrate 500; a conductive film 514 over the insulating film 501; an insulating film 502 over the conductive film 514; an oxide semiconductor film 506 over the insulating film 502; and an insulating film 508 which is provided over the insulating film 501 and is in contact with the side surface of the conductive film 514, part of the top surface of the conductive film 514, the side surface of the insulating film 502, and the side surface of the oxide semiconductor film 506. Note that the top surface of the oxide semiconductor film 506 is positioned at substantially the same level as the top surface of the insulating film 508. Furthermore, the transistor in FIGS. 14A to 14C includes a conductive film 516a and a conductive film 516b that are over and in contact with at least the oxide semiconductor film 506 to be apart from each other; an insulating film 512 over the oxide semiconductor film 506, the conductive film 516a, and the conductive film 516b; a conductive film 504 over the insulating film 512; and an insulating film 518 over the insulating film 512 and the conductive film 504. Note that the transistor does not necessarily include all of the insulating film 501, the conductive film 516a, the conductive film 516b, the insulating film 512, the conductive film 514, and the insulating film 518.

Note that in the transistor illustrated in FIGS. 14A to 14C, the top surface of the insulating film 508 may be positioned at a higher level than the top surface of the oxide semiconductor film 506, in a manner similar to that of the transistor in FIGS. 7A to 7C. Alternatively, in a manner similar to that of the transistor in FIGS. 10A to 10C, the top surface of the insulating film 508 may be positioned at a higher level than the top surface of the oxide semiconductor film 506, and the top surfaces of the conductive film 516a and the conductive film 516b may be positioned at the same level as the top surface of the insulating film 508.

In the transistor in FIGS. 14A to 14C, the conductive film 514 functions as a first gate electrode. The insulating film 502 functions as a first gate insulating film. The conductive film 516a and the conductive film 516b function as a source electrode and a drain electrode. The insulating film 512 functions as a second gate insulating film. The conductive film 504 functions as a second gate electrode.

The conductive film 504 may be electrically connected to the conductive film 514. The electrical connection between the conductive film 504 and the conductive film 514 can reduce on-state resistance of the oxide semiconductor film 506, whereby the on-state current of the transistor can be increased. In addition, one of the conductive film 504 and the conductive film 514 may be used as a fixed potential and the other thereof may be used as a gate electrode for driving. The use of one of the conductive film 504 and the conductive film 514 as a fixed potential enables accurate switching of on/off even in a region of the oxide semiconductor film 506 away from the gate electrode for driving. Therefore, electrical-characteristic variation in the substrate can be reduced.

Note that although the side surface of each film included in the transistor in FIGS. 14A to 14C has a steep angle, one

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embodiment of the present invention is not limited to this shape. For example, the side surface of each film may have a tapered angle. In addition, although the top edge of each of the conductive film 514, the conductive film 516a, the conductive film 516b, the insulating film 512, the conductive film 504, and the insulating film 518 has a curvature, one embodiment of the present invention is not limited to this shape.

Although the insulating film 512 is provided over the oxide semiconductor film 506, the insulating film 508, the conductive film 516a, and the conductive film 516b in the cross-sectional view of the transistor in FIG. 14B, one embodiment of the present invention is not limited to this shape. For example, the insulating film 512 may be provided only in a region which overlaps the conductive film 504 in the top view of the transistor in FIG. 14A.

Although the conductive film 514 is provided to extend to the outside of the insulating film 502 and the oxide semiconductor film 506 in the cross-sectional view of the transistor in FIG. 14B, one embodiment of the present invention is not limited thereto. In the top view of the transistor in FIG. 14A, the width of the conductive film 514 may be the same as or smaller than the width of each of the insulating film 502 and the oxide semiconductor film 506, for example.

An sidewall insulating film may be provided in contact with the side surface of the conductive film 504. In the case where the sidewall insulating film is provided, the insulating film 512 may be provided only in a region which overlaps the conductive film 504 and the sidewall insulating film in the top view. Description of another insulating film is referred to for the sidewall insulating film.

For example, the conductive film 514 may be formed of a single layer or a stacked layer of a conductive film containing one or more of aluminum, titanium, chromium, cobalt, nickel, copper, yttrium, zirconium, molybdenum, ruthenium, silver, tantalum, and tungsten.

For the insulating film 501, the description of the insulating film 101 is referred to. The insulating film 501 is preferably an insulating film having an oxygen-blocking property. An insulating film having a hydrogen-blocking property is preferably used as the insulating film 501. An insulating film which releases a small amount of hydrogen is preferably used as the insulating film 501.

The description of the insulating film 102 can be referred to for the insulating film 502. Further, an insulating film containing excess oxygen is used as the insulating film 502. An insulating film containing excess oxygen refers to an insulating film from which oxygen is released by heat treatment.

The description of the oxide semiconductor film 106 can be referred to for the oxide semiconductor film 506.

For the insulating film 508, the description of the insulating film 108 is referred to an insulating film having an oxygen-blocking property is used as the insulating film 508. As the insulating film 508, an insulating film containing excess oxygen is preferably used. An insulating film having a hydrogen-blocking property is preferably used as the insulating film 508. An insulating film which releases a small amount of hydrogen is preferably used as the insulating film 508.

Note that the insulating film 508 may be similar to the insulating film 108 including the insulating film 108a and the insulating film 108b illustrated in FIGS. 2A to 2C.

The description of the conductive film 116a and the conductive film 116b is referred to for the conductive film 516a and the conductive film 516b.

For the insulating film 512, the description of the insulating film 112 is referred to. As the insulating film 512, an insulating film containing excess oxygen is preferably used.

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The description of the conductive film 104 is referred to for the conductive film 504.

For the insulating film 518, the description of the insulating film 118 is referred to. The insulating film 518 is preferably an insulating film having an oxygen-blocking property. An insulating film having a hydrogen-blocking property is preferably used as the insulating film 518. An insulating film which releases a small amount of hydrogen is preferably used as the insulating film 518.

For the substrate 500, the description of the substrate 100 is referred to.

Note that the transistor illustrated in FIGS. 14A to 14C may have a structure in which the insulating film 501 is not provided and the insulating film 502 is in contact with the bottom surface of the insulating film 508, in a manner similar to that of the transistor illustrated in FIGS. 5A to 5C. A specific structure is illustrated in FIGS. 15A to 15C.

The insulating film 503 and the insulating film 509 in FIGS. 15A to 15C correspond to the insulating film 502 and the insulating film 508 in FIGS. 14A to 14C, respectively.

The kind of the insulating film in contact with the conductive film 514 in the transistor in FIGS. 15A to 15C can be different from that of the insulating film in the transistor in FIGS. 14A to 14C. Therefore, the flexibility in manufacturing might be increased by separate formation of the transistor in FIGS. 14A to 14C and the transistor in FIGS. 15A to 15C as appropriate.

The transistor illustrated in FIGS. 14A to 14C is surrounded by the insulating films having an oxygen-blocking property. For example, the insulating film 502 containing excess oxygen can be surrounded by the insulating film 501, the insulating film 508, and the oxide semiconductor film 506. Therefore, even when oxygen vacancy is generated in the oxide semiconductor film 506, the excess oxygen contained in the insulating film 502 can effectively reduce the oxygen vacancy. In the same manner, even when oxygen vacancy is generated in the oxide semiconductor film 506, the excess oxygen contained in the insulating film 512 can effectively reduce the oxygen vacancy. That is, the transistor illustrated in FIGS. 14A to 14C has stable electrical characteristics. In addition, since an increase in off-state current due to oxygen vacancy can be inhibited, the off-state current of the transistor is low. Furthermore, since the transistor includes the conductive film 504 functioning as a gate electrode and the conductive film 514, it can have high on-state current.

<Method for Manufacturing Transistor Structure (5)>

A method for manufacturing the transistor illustrated in FIGS. 14A to 14C is described below with reference to FIGS. 16A1 to 16C2 and FIGS. 17A1 to 17B2. The method for manufacturing the transistor is described to correspond to the cross-sectional views of FIGS. 14B and 14C.

First, the substrate 500 is prepared. Next, the insulating film 501 is formed. Note that the insulating film 501 may be formed using an insulating film selected from the insulating films described as examples of the insulating film 501. The insulating film 501 may be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method.

Next, a conductive film to be the conductive film 514 is formed. Note that the conductive film to be the conductive film 514 may be formed using a conductive film selected from the conductive films described as examples of the conductive film 514. The conductive film to be the conductive film 514 may be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method.

Then, a mask is formed over the conductive film to be the conductive film 514. Note that a resist and/or a hard mask may

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be used as the mask. The mask may be formed by a photolithography method or the like. Next, regions over which the mask is not provided in the conductive film to be the conductive film 514 are etched to form the conductive film 514 (see FIGS. 16A1 and 16A2).

Next, an insulating film to be the insulating film 502 is formed. Note that the insulating film to be the insulating film 502 may be formed using an insulating film selected from the insulating films given as examples of the insulating film 502. The insulating film to be the insulating film 502 may be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method.

Then, an oxide semiconductor film to be the oxide semiconductor film 506 is formed. Note that the oxide semiconductor film to be the oxide semiconductor film 506 may be formed using an oxide semiconductor film selected from the oxide semiconductor films given as examples of the oxide semiconductor film 506. The oxide semiconductor film to be the oxide semiconductor film 506 can be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method, for example.

Then, a mask is formed over the oxide semiconductor film to be the oxide semiconductor film 506. Note that a resist and/or a hard mask may be used as the mask. The mask may be formed by a photolithography method or the like.

Next, regions over which the mask is not provided in the insulating film to be the insulating film 502 and in the oxide semiconductor film to be the oxide semiconductor film 506 are etched to form the insulating film 502 and the oxide semiconductor film 506 (see FIGS. 16B1 and 16B2).

Next, an insulating film to be the insulating film 508 is formed. Note that the insulating film to be the insulating film 508 is preferably formed to a thickness larger than the total thickness of the insulating film 502 and the oxide semiconductor film 506. The insulating film to be the insulating film 508 may be formed using an insulating film selected from the insulating films described as examples of the insulating film 508. The insulating film to be the insulating film 508 can be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method. The insulating film to be the insulating film 508 is preferably formed using a sputtering method.

In the case where the insulating film to be the insulating film 508 is formed by a sputtering method, a deposition gas containing oxygen is preferably used. With the deposition gas, oxygen can be added to the side surface of the insulating film 502 and the side surface and top surface of the oxide semiconductor film 506 at the time of forming the insulating film to be the insulating film 508. The added oxygen serves as excess oxygen in the insulating film 502 and the oxide semiconductor film 506 and can be used to reduce oxygen vacancy in the oxide semiconductor film 506.

Next, the insulating film to be the insulating film 508 is etched and planarized until the top surface of the oxide semiconductor film 506 is exposed, whereby the insulating film 508 is formed from the insulating film to be the insulating film 508 (see FIGS. 16C1 and 16C2). As a way to etch and planarize the insulating film to be the insulating film 508, a CMP method or the like may be used.

Next, a conductive film to be the conductive film 516a and the conductive film 516b is formed over the insulating film 508 and the oxide semiconductor film 506. Note that the conductive film to be the conductive film 516a and the conductive film 516b may be formed using a conductive film selected from the conductive films described as examples of the conductive film 516a and the conductive film 516b. The conductive film to be the conductive film 516a and the con-

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ductive film **516b** may be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method.

Then, a mask is formed over the conductive film to be the conductive film **516a** and the conductive film **516b**. Note that a resist and/or a hard mask may be used as the mask. The mask may be formed by a photolithography method or the like. Next, regions over which the mask is not provided in the conductive film to be the conductive film **516a** and the conductive film **516b** are etched to form the conductive film **516a** and the conductive film **516b**.

Next, the insulating film **512** is formed (see FIGS. **17A1** and **17A2**). Note that the insulating film **512** may be formed using an insulating film selected from the insulating films given as examples of the insulating film **512**. The insulating film **512** can be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method.

Then, a conductive film to be the conductive film **504** is deposited. Note that the conductive film to be the conductive film **504** may be formed using a conductive film selected from the conductive films given as examples of the conductive film **504**. The conductive film to be the conductive film **504** can be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method.

Next, a mask is formed over the conductive film to be the conductive film **504**. Note that a resist and/or a hard mask may be used as the mask. The mask may be formed by a photolithography method or the like. Next, regions over which the mask is not provided in the conductive film to be the conductive film **504** are etched to form the conductive film **504**.

Then, the insulating film **518** is formed. As a result, the transistor illustrated in FIGS. **14A** to **14C** can be manufactured (see FIGS. **17B1** and **17B2**). Note that the insulating film **518** may be formed using an insulating film selected from the insulating films described as examples of the insulating film **518**. The insulating film **518** can be formed by a sputtering method, a CVD method, an MBE method, an ALD method, or a PLD method.

Accordingly, a transistor having stable electric characteristics can be provided. Furthermore, a transistor with small variation in electrical characteristics can be provided. A miniaturized transistor can be provided. A transistor with low off-state current can be provided. A transistor having high on-state current can be provided.

In addition, a semiconductor device including the transistor can be provided. A highly integrated semiconductor device can be provided. A semiconductor device with high productivity can be provided. A semiconductor device with higher yield can be provided.

The transistors described above are arranged in matrix, thereby forming an integrated circuit. Furthermore, appropriate combination with a transistor having another structure can provide a function of a display device, a sensor, a wireless device, a memory device, a CPU, or the like.

<Application Products>

Examples of electronic appliances each including the above-described semiconductor device are described below.

FIG. **18A** illustrates a portable information terminal. The portable information terminal illustrated in FIG. **18A** includes a housing **900**, a button **901**, a microphone **902**, a display portion **903**, a speaker **904**, and a camera **905**, and has a function as a mobile phone. One embodiment of the present invention can be applied to an arithmetic unit, a wireless circuit, or a memory circuit in its main body. Alternatively, one embodiment of the present invention can be applied to the display portion **903**.

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FIG. **18B** illustrates a display. The display illustrated in FIG. **18B** includes a housing **910** and a display portion **911**. One embodiment of the present invention can be applied to an arithmetic unit, a wireless circuit, or a memory circuit in its main body. One embodiment of the present invention can also be applied to the display portion **911**.

FIG. **18C** illustrates a digital still camera. The digital still camera illustrated in FIG. **18C** includes a housing **920**, a button **921**, a microphone **922**, and a display portion **923**. One embodiment of the present invention can be applied to an arithmetic unit, a wireless circuit, or a memory circuit in its main body. One embodiment of the present invention can also be applied to the display portion **923**.

FIG. **18D** illustrates a double-foldable portable information terminal. The double-foldable portable information terminal illustrated in FIG. **18D** includes a housing **930**, a display portion **931a**, a display portion **931b**, a hinge **933**, and an operation switch **938**. One embodiment of the present invention can be applied to an arithmetic unit, a wireless circuit, or a memory circuit in its main body. Alternatively, one embodiment of the present invention can be applied to the display portion **931a** and the display portion **931b**.

Note that part or whole of the display portion **931a** and/or the display portion **931b** can function as a touch panel. By touching an operation key displayed on the touch panel, a user can input data, for example.

With the use of the semiconductor device of one embodiment of the present invention, a high performance electronic device with low power consumption can be provided.

This application is based on Japanese Patent Application serial no. 2013-106165 filed with Japan Patent Office on May 20, 2013, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

What is claimed is:

1. A semiconductor device comprising:

an island-shaped stack over a substrate, the island-shaped stack including a base insulating film and an oxide semiconductor film over the base insulating film;
a protective insulating film over the substrate, wherein a side surface of the protective insulating film faces a side surface of the island-shaped stack;
a first conductive film and a second conductive film over and in contact with the island-shaped stack, the first conductive film and the second conductive film being apart from each other;
an insulating film over the island-shaped stack, the first conductive film, and the second conductive film; and
a third conductive film over the insulating film and overlapping with the island-shaped stack,
wherein a top surface of the oxide semiconductor film is coplanar with a top surface of the protective insulating film.

2. The semiconductor device according to claim 1, further comprising a fourth conductive film between the substrate and the island-shaped stack.

3. The semiconductor device according to claim 1, wherein the protective insulating film includes an aluminum oxide.

4. The semiconductor device according to claim 1, wherein a silicon oxide film containing excess oxygen is provided between the island-shaped stack and the protective insulating film.

5. The semiconductor device according to claim 1, wherein the base insulating film includes a silicon oxide film containing excess oxygen.

6. The semiconductor device according to claim 1, wherein the oxide semiconductor film contains indium, gallium, and zinc.

7. The semiconductor device according to claim 1, wherein the island-shaped stack includes a base oxide semiconductor film between the base insulating film and the oxide semiconductor film.

8. The semiconductor device according to claim 1, wherein the island-shaped stack includes a protective oxide semiconductor film over and in contact with the oxide semiconductor film.

9. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device, comprising the steps of:

- forming a base insulating film over a substrate;
- forming an oxide semiconductor film over the base insulating film;
- forming a mask over the oxide semiconductor film;
- etching the base insulating film and the oxide semiconductor film by using the mask so that an island-shaped stack is formed;
- removing the mask;
- forming a protective insulating film over the island-shaped stack and the substrate;
- etching and planarizing the protective insulating film so that an upper surface of the island-shaped stack is exposed;
- forming a first conductive film and a second conductive film over the island-shaped stack, wherein the first conductive film and the second conductive film are apart from each other;
- forming an insulating film over the island-shaped stack, the first conductive film, and the second conductive film; and
- forming a third conductive film over the insulating film and overlapping with the island-shaped stack.

10. The method for manufacturing a semiconductor device, according to claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

- before forming the base insulating film over the substrate, forming a fourth conductive film over the substrate.

11. The method for manufacturing the semiconductor device, according to claim 9, wherein the protective insulating film includes an aluminum oxide.

12. The method for manufacturing the semiconductor device, according to claim 9, wherein a silicon oxide film containing excess oxygen and an aluminum oxide film are formed in this order as the protective insulating film.

13. The method for manufacturing the semiconductor device, according to claim 9, wherein the base insulating film includes a silicon oxide film containing excess oxygen.

14. The method for manufacturing the semiconductor device, according to claim 9, wherein the oxide semiconductor film includes indium, gallium, and zinc.

15. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device, comprising the steps of:

- forming a base insulating film over a substrate;
- forming an oxide semiconductor film over the base insulating film;
- forming a first conductive film over the oxide semiconductor film;
- etching the base insulating film and the oxide semiconductor film by using the first conductive film as a mask so that an island-shaped stack is formed;
- forming a protective insulating film over the first conductive film, the island-shaped stack, and the substrate;
- etching and planarizing the protective insulating film so that an upper surface of the first conductive film is exposed;
- forming a resist mask over the first conductive film;
- etching the first conductive film by using the resist mask so that a second conductive film and a third conductive film are formed, wherein the second conductive film and the third conductive film are apart from each other;
- forming an insulating film over the island-shaped stack, the second conductive film, and the third conductive film; and
- forming a fourth conductive film over the insulating film and overlapping with the island-shaped stack.

16. The method for manufacturing a semiconductor device, according to claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

- before forming the base insulating film over the substrate, forming a fifth conductive film over the substrate.

17. The method for manufacturing the semiconductor device, according to claim 15, wherein the protective insulating film includes an aluminum oxide.

18. The method for manufacturing the semiconductor device, according to claim 15, wherein a silicon oxide film containing excess oxygen and an aluminum oxide film are formed in this order as the protective insulating film.

19. The method for manufacturing the semiconductor device, according to claim 15, wherein the base insulating film includes a silicon oxide film containing excess oxygen.

20. The method for manufacturing the semiconductor device, according to claim 15, wherein the oxide semiconductor film includes indium, gallium, and zinc.

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